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# Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

## January 2017

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Marion Roes, Editor

### Public Meetings – All are welcome!

**Thursday, February 23 at 7:30**

Doors open at 7

Joint meeting of The Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus and the Waterloo Historical Society

Victoria Park Pavilion

80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener

The Edna Staebler Research Fellowship for 2016 was awarded jointly by The Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus and the Waterloo Historical Society to Heather MacDonald. Heather researched the history of the WHS from approximately 1960 to 2012, the year of the Society's centennial. She will give her findings in a lecture titled, "A Balancing Act: The Dynamic History of The Waterloo Historical Society, 1960-2012." There is no admission charge but donations to the Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus will be gratefully accepted.

**Saturday, April 1 at 1:30**

Waterloo Region Museum, 10 Huron Road, Kitchener

*Note that there is no admission charge for those attending the WHS meeting and you are welcome to come earlier to view exhibits. WHS will be set up at 1 pm outside the Christie Theatre where the meeting will be held.*

As the archivist at the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, Trevor Ford was a past speaker for WHS. For our April meeting, Trevor has invited graduate students who are members of TUGSA / Tri-University Graduate Student Association, to give brief talks on their local history research. The Tri-U History Program covers the universities of Waterloo, Laurier and Guelph and brings together master and doctoral students for social, academic and learning opportunities. Maddie Dale, WHS councilor and programs committee member, is one of the students and will be a speaker. <http://www.triuhistory.ca/tugsa/executive/>

**Saturday, May 13 at 1:30**

The meeting location will be given in the next newsletter,  
on the web site and Facebook

Local broadcaster Joe Pavia will speak about voices from the past which have been preserved in the Oral History Tape Collection at the Kitchener Public Library. Joe has been formatting the cassette audio onto a digital format and has heard some fascinating stories from people who share their everyday life experiences in the community, and from others who share stories of international journeys.

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

*For information about the meetings, contact Marion Roes or Lesley Webb*

## Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

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You might notice a change in the Grace Schmidt Room – our book scanner now has a tent to eliminate interference with overhead and window light. Many thanks go to the Library for purchasing this tent.

The Directories Digitization Project is nearing its final phases. We hope to start uploading the directories to the GSR web site in the coming weeks.

I'm still on the hunt for Denton photographs and am researching his life and family. If you have a Denton image or information to share or donate, please drop me a line.

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

- 3 black and white photographs of the Berdux Meat Market, Xmas 1925, taken by Ernest Denton
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Elmira, newspaper clippings and notes, dated 1913-1994, and a copy of "Grace and Blessing: a history of the Ontario District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod," (1954)
- framed photographs and genealogy of the Jacob Schaefer and Schmidt families of St. Jacobs
- Elmira and District Horticultural Society records, dated 2011-2015
- Colour postcards for Christmas, New Year's and Easter, dated from 1907-1911, belonging to Pearl Lovina Bracey, 1887-1977
- Denton image of J.G. Field & Son Knitting Mills, Tavistock, ON, dated 14 June 1934
- 7 envelopes of newspaper clippings, flyers, brochures, Pride souvenirs, and personal correspondence related to the LGBTQ community, a copy of the film "Rainbow Reflections" on DVD, magazines and 1 laminated "Define Yourself" poster.

Cheers,  
Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS archivist

Email [karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)

Phone 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.***

***Thank you to our members for your support!***

## Former Waterloo Township Hall Site is Redeveloped

*Photo and article by Jon Fear*

*Jon Fear is a WHS member who lives in Kitchener. He stumbled on the Waterloo Township hall while working as a Record reporter in the early 1980s and soon after wrote a story about the clock tower columns he had spotted in the township works yard behind the hall.*

A five-storey office -retail building is going up on a Kitchener property with a strong past connection to many parts of Waterloo Region. The development is just off King Street East on Kingsbury Drive, a short street that longtime area residents will remember by its earlier name, Parkway Drive. It's in the general area opposite

today's Radisson Kitchener Hotel (visible on the left).



For 18 years beginning in January 1955, 31 Kingsbury Dr. (then 31 Parkway Dr.) was home to the municipal hall of Waterloo Township, which way back in 1850 became a self-governing municipality. The township ceased to exist January 1, 1973 when the Regional Municipality of

Waterloo was created.

Waterloo Township was big. It pretty much surrounded Kitchener, Waterloo, Preston and Hespeler, plus the villages of Breslau, Bridgeport, Maryhill, Bloomingdale, Erbsville and Doon.

The Kingsbury Drive site included a works yard with a machinery shed. The brick township hall had a simple modern design and looked like a school. It held a small council chamber and a handful of offices for the staff. In 1972 the township police service had 11 employees and three cruisers.

With the township's demise, most of the site became a City of Kitchener storage yard (the old Kitchener City Hall clock tower sat in pieces there before it was rebuilt in Victoria Park) and the buildings were leased to private firms. Caudle's Catch Seafood had a store at 31 Kingsbury Dr. in the late 1980s and early 1990s and Baatz Tire Rebuilders was on the site for many years.

Waterloo Township's first municipal hall, back in the early 1850s, was on Queen Street North in the heart of Berlin (now Kitchener) between Duke and Weber streets. It was sold when Berlin took steps to become incorporated as a separate village and for 15 years township councilors met at different sites, often in local taverns. Then in 1868 the township built itself a wood frame hall in the hamlet of Centreville, close to the geographic centre of the township. This building faced today's King Street East at the corner of Parkway Drive — on the site of today's Fairway Inn & Suites, earlier the Guest Inn — and remained in use for almost eight decades.

The final township hall was built immediately behind the 1868 hall. When it opened, the old hall was moved several hundred metres to the south and west. From 1955 to 1961 it had the address 145 Parkway Dr. and was home to the Church of the Holy Trinity, an Anglican congregation. When plans for the Fairview Park shopping mall became known, the church built itself a sanctuary on Wilson Avenue and the old township hall was dismantled. Kitchener was rapidly growing and after 1958 the township hall was inside the city boundaries.

Parkway Drive was split in two and renamed in the early 1960s when a multi-lane Highway 8 route was built to connect motorists with Highway 401.



*Photo credit: Fred A. Curylo / Mennonite Archives of Ontario*

Many readers will recall the Waterloo Township Hall at Doon Heritage Village pictured here. That building was demolished in 2008 to make way for today's Waterloo Region Museum. It was a replica of the 1868 township hall and was built in 1967 with funds Waterloo Township provided as a project to mark Canada's Centennial.

Much of the above information can be found in the wonderful book *Waterloo Township through Two Centuries*, by Elizabeth Bloomfield. It was published by the Waterloo Historical Society in 1995 and republished with revisions in 2006.

*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*

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## Condolences

On behalf of WHS members, we offer condolences to:

- ◆ The family of Walter Hachborn who died December 17, 2016. Walter and his wife Jean (who died December 26, 2014) were WHS members and strong supporters since 1968.

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## Challenge for Readers

- ❖ Neal Moogk-Soulis has a challenge for readers instigated by the news that the Harmony Lunch in Waterloo was closing (still an interesting question although the latest news is that the iconic eatery will reopen). *What's the new record for longest still operating, and similar to its original purpose,*

restaurant in Waterloo Region? Neal thinks the Charcoal Steakhouse is somewhere around 60 years old. Answers? Email to editor [mlroes@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlroes@sympatico.ca) and they will be included in the next newsletter.

## Mike Wagner Heritage Award for Individual Contributions to the Field of Heritage Conservation

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Our own rych mills was honoured by the City of Kitchener at a November 2 Gala Event. It is presented to individuals, businesses, organizations or institutions who have made exceptional and / or long lasting contributions to the conservation of Kitchener's cultural heritage resources. rych was presented with a trophy and framed citation. Members of the WHS were in attendance to cheer him on.

A video shown at the Gala highlighted rych's involvement in many heritage activities, including the Waterloo Historical Society, the Victoria Park Gallery, the Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Regional Post Card Club and regular *Record* column "Flash from the Past." One of rych's memorable quotes was, "Most people aren't interested in history until they are almost history."

Congratulations, rych!

*Councilors Zyg Janecki, rych mills, John Gazzola and  
Heritage Kitchener Chair, Grayson Zeilstra. Photo courtesy  
of the City of Kitchener*



## Historical Happenings

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**CASTLE KILBRIDE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden [www.castlekilbride.ca](http://www.castlekilbride.ca)

*Castle Kilbride: The House That Flax Built* is the new and definitive book about Wilmot Township's beloved National Historic Site, written and compiled by the Castle Kilbride Advisory Committee. This gorgeously illustrated book recounts the history of the house back to its very beginnings in 1877, and illustrates that history with stunning photographs dating from over a century ago to today. Cost \$26, tax incl. Available in the Castle's Gift Shop.

### **CITY OF KITCHENER HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM**

**Applications due by Friday, 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.  
Information at <http://www.kitchener.ca/en/livinginkitchener/HeritageFunding.asp>  
Contact Sandra Parks, Heritage Planner, 519-741-2200 ext. 7839 or [sandra.parks@kitchener.ca](mailto:sandra.parks@kitchener.ca)

**CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM** Conestoga Mall between Hudson's Bay store and the Galaxy Cinema  
[www.waterloo.ca/museum](http://www.waterloo.ca/museum) 519-885-8828 or TTY: 1-866-786-3941 Free admission  
**Hours:** Tuesday – Friday: 9:30- 4; Every 4th Thursday and Saturday: Thurs 9:30-8 and Sat 9:30-4  
**January 17 – June 9, 2017**

**We Are Waterloo Portrait Project**

The City of Waterloo Museum kicks off the city's year-long celebration of **Canada's 150th** birthday with an exhibition of more than 500 unique and inspiring self-portraits by individuals who work, play and live in Waterloo. By timing the project in conjunction with **Canada's 150th**, the exhibition offers an opportunity for the community to celebrate its present as well as its past and future.



**HERITAGE DAY WORKSHOP** by the Heritage Working Group of the Grand River Watershed  
<https://grandriver.ca>

**February 15, 16, 17** at Mississaugas of the New Credit Community Centre, 468 New Credit Road, RR 6, Hagersville. An Historical Gathering and Cultural series showcasing the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation – their lands, water and people and their role in Ontario's and **Canada's 150th** Anniversary.

**JOSEPH SCHNEIDER HAUS** reopens February 18 [www.josephschneiderhaus.com](http://www.josephschneiderhaus.com)

**February 20, 10 – 5 - Family Day** at Kitchener's oldest home. There'll be treats to sample and activities all day for the kids too!

*Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often*

**KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POST CARD CLUB (KWCRPCC)** [www.kwcrpcc.com](http://www.kwcrpcc.com)

**March 8**, doors open at 6:30 for browsing, buying and networking at the Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener. Presentation is at 7:30. Author Mike Smith looks at the life and work of one of Huron County's most prolific postcard photographers, Reuben Sallows. Free admission. All are welcome. [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) or 519 742-4990

**March 19**, 9:30 – 4, **KWCRPCC Annual Postcard Memories Show & Sale** at Bingeman Park's Embassy Room, 425 Bingeman Centre Drive, Kitchener. Calling all collectors, local historians and researchers to come and search through the offerings of more than 20 dealers of postcards, paper ephemera such as maps, letters, covers, documents, photos, advertising, etc. It is the largest such event in southwestern Ontario. Admission \$5. *Anyone interested in setting up a sales table, please contact David Moore at 519 885-3499.*

**MCDUGALL COTTAGE MUSEUM** [www.mcdougallcottage.com](http://www.mcdougallcottage.com)

89 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge / Galt 519 624-8250 [mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca)

**February 20**, 10 – 5 drop-in - **Family Day Activities**. Join us for family-friendly games, crafts, treats and tours of the Cottage. Admission is by cash donation

**UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ARCHIVES**  
**60th Anniversary Image Bank**

Special Collections & Archives is pleased to share with you our Image Bank database of over 2,000 historic photographs from the University of Waterloo Archives and the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* Photographic Negative Collection, which document life on campus from 1957 to 1994.

The University of Waterloo Archives holds over a hundred thousand photographs: black & white and colour, snapshots and portraits, analogue and digital. Please contact us with any questions or if you require assistance.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/library/special-collections-archives/collections/digital-collections/university-waterloo-archives-60th-anniversary-image-bank>

**61 Titles by Historians Elizabeth Bloomfield and Gerald T. Bloomfield available on the Internet Archive**

[https://archive.org/details/uwaterloo?and\[\]=contributor:Elizabeth%20Bloomfield%20and%20G.T.%20\(Gerald%20Taylor\)%20Bloomfield](https://archive.org/details/uwaterloo?and[]=contributor:Elizabeth%20Bloomfield%20and%20G.T.%20(Gerald%20Taylor)%20Bloomfield)

Comprising indexes, bibliographies, biographical overviews and historical maps, the titles are exhaustive, and invaluable resources for anyone interested in the early economic and social development of both the Region of Waterloo and Ontario as a whole.

The project was made possible by a generous donation from the Bloomfields. Their forward-thinking approach to access has ensured that these important historical resources will be available for years to come. Thanks is also due to Andrea Mills and Gabe Juszel at the Internet Archive for their assistance with this effort.

**WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM** 10 Huron Road, Kitchener 519 748-1914 [www.waterlooregionmuseum.com](http://www.waterlooregionmuseum.com)

*Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often*

**February 3 – April 30, Tyrannosaurs – Meet the Family** makes its North American premiere  
<http://www.waterlooregionmuseum.com/exhibits/tyrannosaurs-meet-the-family/>

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

[www.wellesleyhistory.org](http://www.wellesleyhistory.org) [info@wellesleyhistory.org](mailto:info@wellesleyhistory.org) Check the Events page often

Instagram: wellesleyhistory

Facebook: Wellesley Township History

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

WTHHS was saddened to learn of the death of its former president, Ron Hackett, on December 23, 2016. From history to horticulture Ron was active in Wellesley Township life. He will be missed. Our condolences to his wife, Reta.

**Heritage Week - February 20, 10 -2 & February 25, 10 – 3**, the Historical Room will be open for visitors

**Wellesley Public School Anniversary** - This year, Wellesley Public School celebrates the 50th anniversary of the "new" school building. The WTHHS will help them celebrate by having special displays about township schools past and present. *If you have any school memorabilia or photos to lend or donate please contact Nancy Maitland* [info@wellesleyhistory.org](mailto:info@wellesleyhistory.org)

**April 22, 1-4** We will be open on the anniversary day and our usual Saturday hours, **April 29, 10- 3.**

## Annual General Meeting Reports

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*Since January 2009, reports that are given at the AGM have been printed in the newsletter; the Treasurer's Report was included for a few years before that. To save paper, the reports will be placed on the web site and can be read, downloaded or printed from there.*

### A Storied Past

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*By Lary Turner, from Hespeler Happenings, Winter 2016, the newsletter of The Company of Neighbours and Hespeler Heritage Centre <http://uberink.net/neighbours/>*

An application for rezoning has been filed by JENC Investments Ltd. with the City of Cambridge regarding the property at 408 Guelph Avenue. The large building on the property has an interesting story that requires telling. In its most recent past, the vacant and abandoned residence was an apartment building. Prior to that it saw life as Spruce Haven Lodge, a nursing and seniors home operated by Mrs. Joyce Laderoute. But that is just during our memory, before that its history is much more interesting!

In his memoirs "The Barefoot Farm Boy" published in 1955, author C. A. Panabaker relates another story regarding this property. It was 1887, and a horse thief had been operating in the Hespeler area for a few years. A dozen of the best young horses had disappeared with no trace from farms in the district. Through the process of elimination, suspicion fell on a stranger who would come occasionally to the area seeking work. Within a short period, the stranger and another fine horse would disappear. He made no attempt to hide, as many men of that time travelled around doing temporary farm work. The timing of his visits and the missing horses coincided so perfectly that there was little doubt of who the culprit was. However, none of the missing stock had turned up and there was no proof of guilt. Spotted by residents when in the area, word would quickly spread that the "horse thief was here" and "watch your stock."

John Clemens, a son of Abram Clemens an original settler of the area, was a prosperous farmer on the "Great Guelph Road" and owner of many fine horses. When news that the horse thief was back reached him one Saturday evening, John and his sons, Abram, Isaiah and Aaron sat around the pasture all night. But with dawn on Sunday, daylight revealed his best horse missing. Quickly saddling another, John set out on the track. He was aided by the facts that the horse wore a bar-shoe on one foot, it had rained slightly overnight and there was little other traffic, leaving an easy trail to follow. Stopping to examine corners, he quickly determined which direction the bar-shoed horse had gone. He trailed through Aberfoyle, Morriston, Puslinch and Freulton inquiring at every wayside inn along the way. At Carlisle, a man silently left the inn when he described his missing horse, which was found in the hotel stable. After resting the night, Clemens returned with both horses and finally provided proof that the disappearances were linked to the stranger.

Instead of giving up his criminal activity in the Hespeler area, the horse thief returned once again. A Puslinch farmer reported seeing him to the east of the village. Hespeler Constable Henry Winterhalt rushed out to the road in front of the lake where he encountered and placed the thief under arrest. Identified as a man named Kruger, he had been convicted and sent to jail for stealing sheep from Squire James Phin seven years earlier (408 Guelph Avenue was part of his estate at the time). Upon his release, Squire Phin's large barn, stored crops and large herd of purebred cattle were mysteriously burned in two separate fires. The horse thief was subsequently blamed for retaliation. Brought before the magistrate with the overwhelming evidence, Kruger was convicted and sentenced to 24 years in Kingston prison. Upon earning early release, he again returned to Hespeler and was discovered hanging around John Clemens farm. He was immediately recognized, arrested and tried on another horse stealing charge and sentenced to another term in prison. He died in custody several years later.



Following his first arrest for horse stealing, the location of the disposal of the stolen horses was discovered and many were returned to their rightful owners.

*Footnote:*

Hespeler Constable Henry Winterhalt was offered a position with the Berlin (Kitchener) Police Force following his brave and heroic arrest of the horse thief Kruger. He accepted and went on to become the Chief of Police, serving for many years.

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## Welcome New Councilors!

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The Nominating Committee introduced three councilors at the Board / Council meeting November 29, 2016.

**Eric Uhlmann** for Kitchener

I have an Honours Bachelors degree from Queen's University with a double major in history and politics. I've found history fascinating since high school, when a particularly enthusiastic teacher made it come alive. His name is John Boyko and he has since written a few books about Canadian history. I went on to study law at Queen's and then at Université de Sherbrooke. In the course of doing both degrees, I incorporated some legal history research, mostly, interestingly, relating to slavery in Upper and Lower Canada. Since I started working as a criminal defence lawyer in Kitchener, I spend some of my spare time working on my 94-year-old house, which has resulted in my now having a few bizarre things, from an original cast iron bathtub to old newspaper insulation. Other spare time activities are playing hockey and soccer, volunteering as a Big Brother through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region, and recently I started volunteering at the City of Waterloo Museum.

**Paula Drouillard** for Waterloo

Paula has a degree in Medieval and Renaissance Studies from Brock University and a Museum Studies diploma from Algonquin College. She has worked for the Huntley Township Historical Society as a collections assistant and also submitted a monthly "from the archives" piece for its newsletter. Paula is currently working in customer service and administration at the City of Waterloo Museum.

**David Emberly** for Cambridge

David has some 50 years of community involvements, a great many of which have to do with Canadian and US heritage. David served on the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation and has also sat on the board of the South Waterloo Agricultural Society for 32 years, serving as its President in the early 1980s.

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## Congratulations to Mary Johnston !

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*The Community edition* newspaper's "Best of Waterloo Region," November 3, 2016 included Mary Johnston as "Best Person Over 75." That says it all!

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## A Poorhouse Resident

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From Waterloo Generations [www.generations.regionofwaterloo.ca](http://www.generations.regionofwaterloo.ca) *Berliner Journal*, 22 Mar 1900, p. 4 Col. 3

August Drechsler, a violinist, who, for approximately 45 years wandered around this area for the most part barefoot and in slippers and in the lightest possible clothing, has finally come to rest. On Monday morning, he

died in the poorhouse here, where he had lived for some years, at the age of 78 years. In addition to music, his favourite activity was translating from classical works. He used to get paper from printing houses and glued several sheets together, until the desired thickness was obtained. On this, he wrote a line of Greek at the top, and below that, the translation, line by line, in Latin, French, English and German, and in the most beautiful script possible. He was a polite, harmless human being, whom one had to like despite his peculiarities. He left his estate, consisting of approximately \$60., to Mr. Jakob Hagey of Waterloo and his beloved violin to the latter's daughter. He was born in Saxony. The article was translated by: Patricia J. Kauk November 4, 2005

## Who We Are and How to Reach Us

**WEB SITE** [www.whs.ca](http://www.whs.ca)

**EMAIL** [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca)

### **MAIL**

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

**FACEBOOK** [www.facebook.com/waterloohs](http://www.facebook.com/waterloohs)

**TWITTER** WaterlooHS

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lesley Webb, president & communications committee chair: [lesley.webb@gmail.com](mailto:lesley.webb@gmail.com)

Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt, publication committee

Karen Ball-Pyatt, archivist: [karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)

John Glass, secretary & web site committee chair: [jcglass@rogers.com](mailto:jcglass@rogers.com)

Sherwood Hagey, book table: [eshagey@bell.net](mailto:eshagey@bell.net)

Debbie Kroetsch, plaques committee

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

Nancy Maitland, Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation representative: [wthhs.info@gmail.com](mailto:wthhs.info@gmail.com)

rych mills, chair / editor publication committee: [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net), 519 742-4990

Marion Roes, newsletter editor & programs cte. chair: [mlroes@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlroes@sympatico.ca), 519 883-1448

Ray Ruddy, plaques committee

Jeff Shank, treasurer: [jeff420shank@gmail.com](mailto:jeff420shank@gmail.com)

Warren Stauch, plaques committee chair: [mmegeo@golden.net](mailto:mmegeo@golden.net)

### **COUNCILORS**

Cambridge: Joleen Taylor, David Emberly

Kitchener: Harold Russell, Maddie Dale, Eric Uhlmann

Waterloo: Jane Britton, Paula Drouillard

North Dumfries Township: David Pyper

Wellesley Township: vacant

Wilmot Township: Patty Clarke

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

### **BOOK TABLE**

To donate or buy books, visit us at [www.whs.ca/booktable/](http://www.whs.ca/booktable/)

### **Thank you to**

Mandy Macfie,  
Karen Ball-Pyatt,  
Sandra Parks,  
Roberta Grosland,  
Lesley Webb, Jon  
Fear, Lary Turner,  
Laureen Harder-  
Gissing, Neal  
Moogk-Soulis,  
Darryl Bonk, Nancy  
Maitland and all  
who send requests,  
stories, events etc.  
Thanks to Pat Bailey  
for help with  
mailing.

The next newsletter  
will be out in April.

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

**MEMBERSHIPS**

*Renewals are / were due October 1. For membership questions contact Mandy Macfie*

**ANNUAL VOLUME**

*If you have written something that relates to the history of Waterloo Region / County and would like it to be considered for the annual volume, see [www.whs.ca/authors/](http://www.whs.ca/authors/)*

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# Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

## APRIL 2017

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Marion Roes, Editor

### Public Meetings – All are welcome!

**Tuesday, May 23 at 7:30**

*Note change of date and time*

Doors open at 7

Victoria Park Pavilion  
80 Schneider Ave., Kitchener

Local broadcaster and podcaster Joe Pavia will speak about “Voices from the Past” which have been preserved in the Oral History Tape Collection at the Kitchener Public Library. Joe has been formatting the cassette audio onto a digital format and has heard some fascinating stories from people who share their everyday life experiences in the community, and from others who share stories of international journeys. Follow Joe on Facebook: Station to Station with Joe Pavia or Twitter @PaviaJoe1964

WHS Volume No. 104 will be distributed free to current members at this meeting. If you won't be attending, you could ask someone who is attending to pick up your volume. Otherwise, it will be delivered or mailed. Additional copies and ones for non-members are \$25.

For information about the meeting, contact Marion Roes or Lesley Webb

**Saturday, July 8 at 1:30**

**History Under the Trees**

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

The WHS Book Table and displays will be set up by 1 pm. You are welcome to come earlier and tour the museum and village. Please mention History Under the Trees and your admission fee will be discounted. WHS members, bring your membership discount card.

We will be “Celebrating a Half-Century of Painting Waterloo Region – Peter Etril Snyder” at this annual gathering, this time in the Shuh barn instead of under the trees or tent. Attendees are invited to bring a favourite Peter Etril Snyder print or painting and talk briefly about it. It's always a warm and sunny day – except for last year – to enjoy one of our favourite places in Waterloo Region. Thanks to the museum staff for hosting and helping with History Under the Trees!

#### Future meetings

Mark Your calendars for these WHS meetings. More details will be in newsletters, on [www.whs.ca](http://www.whs.ca) and Facebook.

Tuesday, **September 19** at 7:30 pm at Victoria Park Pavilion

Tuesday, **November 7** at 7:30 pm, Annual General Meeting at Victoria Park Pavilion

*The WHS Book Table, displays, refreshments, and networking, are all part of WHS meetings  
All are welcome: members and non members*

## Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

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Our book scanner has been moved and is available for public use! Just bring a jump drive and we can get you scanning!

Join me for the next presentation in the “History in the ‘Hood” series on 9 May 2017 at the Pioneer Park branch. We’re looking at the community of Doon. Program begins at 7:15pm. Registration required. Call 519-743-7502 during library hours. Free parking.

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

- 1 black and white photograph of Marion Dreisinger Armbrust dressed for Hallowe'en 1927.
- 1 black and white aerial photograph of West Montrose during the flood of May 1974, newspaper clipping of Sip and Bite Restaurant (undated), a funeral card for David A. Byers, dated 6 March 1939, and a Woolwich Historical Foundation supplement on the "Heritage of Maryhill."
- A 1964 colour postcard invitation to the 22nd Annual Convention of the Canadian Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association (Ontario Branch) at the Walper Hotel.
- 1 copy of the church marriage certificate for Edward Schaefer and Louise Schmidt, dated 8 April 1901, St. Jacobs.
- 1 colour aerial photograph of Sulco Chemicals, Elmira.
- 58 photograph negatives that were in the files of the Mennonite Story Interpretative Centre in St. Jacobs.
- Clippings and photographs related to the history and demolition of the Elmira Grandstand, raceway and fair grounds.
- A baptismal certificate for Edward Schaefer, son of Adam Schaefer and Magdalena Winkler, dated 26 Dec 1872, St. Jacobs.
- 9 editions of *Waterloo County Times*, dated from Aug 1994 to Spring 1998.
- A collection of books and a ledger related to public education in Woolwich Township which belonged to Allan Diefenbacher, Secretary of the Woolwich Township School Board.
- 3 sepia panoramic photographs of a tent meeting in the woods, ca. 1880.
- A studio portrait in an Ernest Denton holder, likely from the 1940s. Image looks to have been a reprint of a turn of the century photograph.

Cheers,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS archivist

Email [karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)

Phone 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.***

***Social Media? Heritage Media...*** Do you like to see old pictures, read about local history, share remembrances of where you lived, your schools and where you shopped?

A sampling of Facebook groups that you can see and / or join for all of that is: Elmira-growing up in small town Elmira; Preston – Ontario – Canada; It's Retro Galt, Preston, Hespeler, Kitchener...; Memories of Galt Preston or Hespeler; Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge “Tri Cities” – Things Past and Present; Waterloo Region Heritage... Some are public and others are closed, which means you can apply and be approved. *Don't forget to check WHS on Facebook and Twitter!*



## Requests to / from Readers

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- *How does food help you reconnect with home?*  
In the spirit of Edna Staebler, “A Region That Really Schmecks” celebrates our diverse cultures and foods, told through the tales and recipes of those who make Waterloo Region their home. These immigration stories feature personal experiences and dishes from those who arrived seven days, seven years or even seven decades ago, or are a member of our Indigenous community. Articles with recipes will be posted on [ryeandginger.ca](http://ryeandginger.ca). To be part of the series or for more information, please contact Jasmine Mangalaseril at [cardamomaddict@gmail.com](mailto:cardamomaddict@gmail.com).
- *Volunteer teachers (teaching certificate not required) are needed* for the Victorian Classroom at Suddaby School, Kitchener. Programs focus on grades 2 & 3 and 5/6, and Enrichment grades 4 to 8. For information contact Mary Kitchen, program coordinator at 519 653-5498, or Helen Koepke 519 884-9461, or Margaret Dickson 519 742-2218.

## House of Industry & Refuge Virtual Museum

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[www.waterloohouseofrefuge.ca](http://www.waterloohouseofrefuge.ca)

The Social Innovation Research Group (SIRG) at Wilfrid Laurier University is undertaking a history case study of the Waterloo County House of Industry and Refuge (1869-1950). This project involves the digitalization of archival materials and the creation of this virtual museum exhibit. The aim is to honour the memories of the poorhouse residents and better understand their everyday lives, struggles and strengths. *Do you want to know more about a relative from the House? Do you have a story to share about the House or about someone who lived or worked at the House?* If you do, please contact the group through the website.



## Challenge for Readers – Answer

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In the January newsletter, Neal Moogk-Soulis asked our readers: *What's the new record for longest still-operating, and similar to its original purpose, restaurant in Waterloo Region?* WHS member Ralph Shantz called to say that the Blue Moon Hotel in Petersburg, Wilmot Township has been a hotel, providing food for 168 years.

## Historical Happenings

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**ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO, NORTH WATERLOO REGION BRANCH (NWRB, ACO)** [www.aconwr.ca](http://www.aconwr.ca)

**May 16, 7 pm**

Walter Fedy Grand River Room, 675 Queen Street South, Kitchener Free to NWR, ACO members. Non members \$8.50  
“The Un-Official Story: A Personal Account of the Building of the University of Waterloo.” Over his 48-year career as a student and professor at the University of Waterloo, Rick Haldenby has observed and, many times, been directly involved in the design of buildings on and off campus. His talk will weave stories of buildings into a narrative that visits both high and not-so-high points in the development of the built fabric of a great institution. Registration required. Please email [aco.nwr@gmail.com](mailto:aco.nwr@gmail.com) and you will get a notice to register through Eventbrite

**BRITISH HOME CHILDREN'S FAMILY REUNION** <https://www.facebook.com/events/200346127075610>

**July 23**, 10-5 at the Waterloo Regional Museum, 10 Huron Road, Kitchener

Do you have a British home child in your past or have interest in this subject? All are welcome. Features are British historian, Sarah Wise (*The Blackest Streets, The Italian Boy*); Waterloo author Marjorie Kohli (*The Golden Bridge*); Lori Oschefski and Perry Snow; and a performance of Laura Teasdale's play "Home Child." Adults \$10, Children \$5  
Information from Donna Diebel at 519 783-1223 or [donna.diebel@kuntz.com](mailto:donna.diebel@kuntz.com)

**CASTLE KILBRIDE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden [www.castlekilbride.ca](http://www.castlekilbride.ca)

The gorgeously illustrated book, *Castle Kilbride: The House That Flax Built*, is available in the Castle's Gift Shop. \$26

**Maid Of Kilbride Tea & Tour**, 1:30 pm \$15/pp

**June 13-30** (available Saturdays June 17 and 24), **July 18-21** and **August 8-11**. There'll be an in-depth tour of the Castle, then the Maids of Kilbride will serve tea and a sampler of sweets in the shade of trees on the front lawn. Groups or individuals. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. If inclement weather, tea will be held indoors.

**CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM** Conestoga Mall between Hudson's Bay and the Galaxy Cinema

[www.waterloo.ca/museum](http://www.waterloo.ca/museum) 519-885-8828 Free admission

Tuesday – Friday: 9:30- 4

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

**To June 9 "We Are Waterloo Portrait Project"**

An exhibition of more than 500 unique and inspiring self-portraits by individuals who work, play and live in Waterloo.



**DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION**

**Saturday, September 16**, most sites open 10-5

FREE architecture, heritage and tech event. Discover the secret places of Waterloo Region! Free admission, children's activities, music, drama presentations, walking tours and other special events (check our website). Pick up the Map & Guide at libraries, museums and tourism offices in Waterloo Region, July to September.

[www.regionofwaterloo.ca/doorsopen](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/doorsopen) [doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca) Twitter/Instagram and Facebook

**DOORS OPEN ONTARIO** <http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/Events/2017-event-list.aspx>

**April 22**, The first event of the year is in Guelph [guelpharts.ca/doors-open-guelph#thisyearevent](http://guelpharts.ca/doors-open-guelph#thisyearevent)

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST. BONIFACE AND MARYHILL COMMUNITY** [www.Maryhillroots.com](http://www.Maryhillroots.com) 1338 Maryhill Road

**Sundays, June 11 to September 3**, 1-4 pm – The Edward Halter House is open for research

**July 1**, 10 am – all day, **Canada Day** - flag raising, salute to veterans, noon BBQ, historical displays, music and more

**IDEA EXCHANGE** [ideaexchange.org](http://ideaexchange.org) 519 621-0460 Cambridge

CTAL – **Cambridge Third Age Learning**, Trillium United Church, 450 King St. E

10 am-12 pm, \$8.85 per lecture + HST Call 519 621-0460 to register

**April 13**, The Bruce Trail Conservancy with Beth Gilhespy, CEO, Bruce Trail Conservancy

**May 18** (new date), "Building Community" with Joe Mancini, co-founder of The Working Centre, Kitchener

**April 29**, 11-3:30, **Art & Antique Appraisal Day**. Idea Exchange, Queen's Square, 1 North Square

Specialists from Bonhams Canada offer verbal appraisals for Fine Art (painting, drawing, prints) and Decorative Art (china, collectibles, clocks, furniture and accessories) \$14 + HST / item. Call 519 621-0460 to register

**May 6**, 1-2, **Jane's Walk** – "Growing up in Galt: Water Street Then and Now" with Jim Griffin. Walk starts at Waterscape, 150 Water St. N. Free

**May 7, 2-3, Jane's Walk** – "Hespeler River Trail" with Linda Lennox and the Silverheights Neighbourhood Association Walk begins at Idea Exchange, Hespeler, 5 Tannery St. E. Free

**May 9, 2-3, "My Story: Valley Child"** by Jockie Loomer-Kruger, Idea Exchange, Preston, 435 King St. E. Free  
This local author and folk artist reads from her collection of poignant and laugh-out-loud stories of growing up in Nova Scotia. Original folk art illustrations will be on display and books will be available for purchase.

**KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POST CARD CLUB (KWCRPCC)** [www.kwcrpcc.com](http://www.kwcrpcc.com)

**May 10**, meeting, Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener. Open at 6:30 for browsing, buying and networking. Speaker / presentation at 7:30. Free admission. All are welcome. [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) or 519 742-4990

**MCDUGALL COTTAGE MUSEUM** [www.mcdougallcottage.com](http://www.mcdougallcottage.com) 89 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge / Galt  
519 624-8250 [mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca)

**May 18, 7 pm**

**"Early Undertakers of Galt and Area: When, Who, Where?"** Local historian and author, Marion Roes, will take a look at undertaking businesses in Cambridge, focusing on the Galt area in particular. Roes is currently researching for a book about histories of all the undertaking businesses in Waterloo Region. \$5 plus HST. Please call in advance to register.



**June 29, 7 pm**

**"They Came from Scotland: Tracking Your Scots Ancestors."** Genealogy lecturer, researcher and writer, Christine Woodcock will help you get started on your genealogy research with a touch of humour and an incredible knowledge about Scotland. Christine was born in Scotland and has been traveling back and forth her whole life and operates Genealogy Tours of Scotland. \$5 plus HST. Please call in advance to register.

**July 20, 7 – 9 pm**

**Summer Evening Ghost Walk**

Put on your comfy walking shoes and join McDougall staffer, Joleen Taylor, as she takes us on a spooky nighttime adventure that looks at the history and hauntings of Galt. Participants are asked to bring a flashlight. \$10 plus HST  
Light refreshments to follow. Please call in advance to register.

**PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN FOLKLORE SOCIETY, WATERLOO AREA CHAPTER (PGFSO)** <http://www.pgfsocanada.com>

**April 27**, 6:30 pm at New Dundee Community Centre, 1028 Queen Street, New Dundee

**Spring AGM and Dinner:** Business meeting and an informative review of bus tour plans in Waterloo Region.

Dinner registration required by April 20. \$30. Contact Marilyn Sararus 519 696-3061 or [msararus@sympatico.ca](mailto:msararus@sympatico.ca)

**JOSEPH SCHNEIDER HAUS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** [www.josephschneiderhaus.com](http://www.josephschneiderhaus.com) 466 Queen Street South, Kitchener  
*Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often*

A local landmark and Kitchener's oldest dwelling, the 1816 homestead was restored and furnished, then opened as a living history museum in 1981. The heart of the complex is the fine Georgian-frame farmhouse built by one of the area's earliest non-Aboriginal settlers, Joseph Schneider, a Pennsylvania-German Mennonite. Today, history comes to life as costumed staff demonstrate traditional tasks in step with the seasons. Come by for a visit and enjoy hands on activities, workshops, special events, gallery exhibits and more!

**"SECRET AT WOODSIDE"** <http://www.wordscribe.ca/secretatwoodside.html> KWMP Arts Centre, 15 Shaftsbury Dr. Kitchener  
**June 8 – June 18**, A play for Canada's 150th, taking place in 1891 Berlin, by Stephen W. Young [writing@wordscribe.ca](mailto:writing@wordscribe.ca)

**THE GALLERY IN VICTORIA PARK**, 83 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener, opens May 20 for its 22nd season. Weekends and holiday afternoons 1-4. Free admission. Information from rymills at [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) and 519 742-4990

**WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM** 10 Huron Road, Kitchener 519 748-1914 [www.waterlooregionmuseum.com](http://www.waterlooregionmuseum.com)  
*Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often*

**To April 30, Tyrannosaurs – Meet the Family**

**May 1** - Opening Day for the Village

**June 23** - A new exhibit, **Trailblazing: Women in Canada, 1867 to Today**, explores what it means to be a woman in Canada throughout our 150-year history, including what it meant at the time of Confederation. The exhibit examines how women's roles have transformed politics, work and everyday life. Five main themes explore the body, violence against women, feminism, politics / law and work. The exhibit will also examine work that still needs to be done in the 21st century with respect to women's rights, different experiences based on race, class and ethnicity, and the experiences of the 'everyday' woman.

Waterloo Region Museum is working with a group of advisors – women's history professors – from the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. Input from the public and various groups from across Canada are also influencing the design and content of the exhibit.

**WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY (WTHHS)** 1137 Henry Street [www.wellesleyhistory.org](http://www.wellesleyhistory.org)

**Last Saturday, January to November, 10 – 3**, Open for visitors

**April 22**, 1-4 Open on the Wellesley Public School anniversary and our usual Saturday hours, **April 29**, 10- 3

## **\$500 Local History Award**

### **Attention Third- and Fourth-Year History Students at WLU and UW!**

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Are you or do you know a third- or fourth-year history student at WLU or UW? If so, they are eligible to apply through their respective department for a \$500 local history award offered annually to each university by the Waterloo Historical Society. Along with the cash award is the possibility of having the paper published in the annual volume of the society. Waterloo Region history must be a significant aspect of the paper's research but the overall theme may take in a wider area. For further details, please go to <http://www.whs.ca/local-history-award/>. You will also see the award winners and titles of their papers.

## **Welcome New Councilors!**

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**David Emberly**, new councilor for Cambridge, was introduced in the January newsletter and here's a bit more about him: David has filled a term on the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation and comes with the following experience. "I was a member of the first Cambridge Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (and its chairman for several years), vice president of the John Galt Council of the Heritage Canada Foundation, treasurer of The Conservation Council of Ontario, and for several years chaired the (Ontario) Lieutenant Governor's Conservation Award, the latter two being in the 1990s."

**Todd Bowman** is a new councilor for Kitchener, appointed at the annual general meeting in November. He wrote: I grew up in Waterloo and attended the University of Waterloo, majoring in history. I completed a Bachelor of Education from Western and began my teaching career at Preston High School, later moving to Huron Heights Secondary School where I've taught history and social science for the last decade. My wife and I moved to downtown Kitchener six years ago and that seemed to rekindle my interest in local history. I took local history courses offered at Conestoga College and researched and designed several history walks. I have a strong personal interest in local history but also a desire to share that with the broader community to improve citizens' understanding of where they live, its stories, people and development.

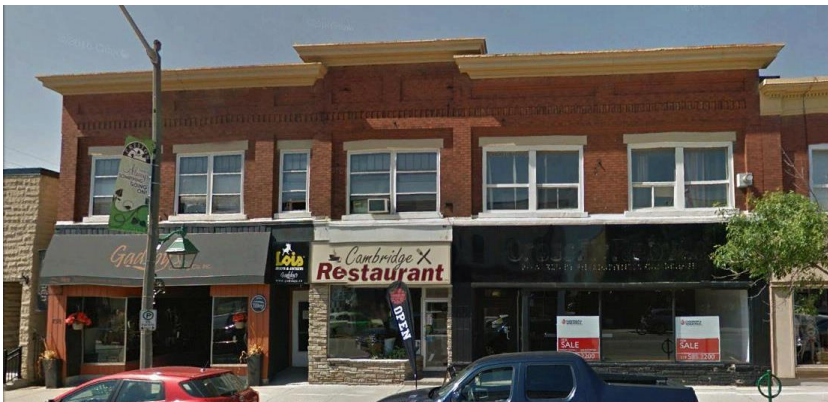
## Finding Werlich... or... Researching a Building in Preston

By Marion Roes

I am researching histories of undertakers and their businesses in Waterloo County / Region for a book. In the May 1914, issue of *Canadian Furniture World and The Undertaker*, online at archive.org, is a reference to a new furniture store on King Street, Preston, being built by Jacob Werlich for his funeral and furniture business. I knew that Werlich was, for many years, located at what is now 210 King Street East but I didn't know he had built a new building and moved. *Where was that building and is it still standing?* I wondered. Werlich died in 1918 so the time frame for getting an answer from old records is narrow. I emailed Lynn Griggs at the City of Cambridge Archives and requested the records that I wanted to see. A few days later I was at the archives looking through those records. Thanks to Dan Schmalz for his help.

This is how I determined the location of Werlich's building. Perhaps the process and knowing what is available will be helpful to other researchers. Other archives and libraries may not have the same records. And, one doesn't always find an answer....

- The fire insurance maps for that time period weren't helpful initially and I turned to the assessment / tax record books. The 1915 book has names in alphabetical order and Werlich is shown as "Furniture Merchant" at the old location.
- The 1917 assessment book is by streets, and Werlich is listed on King Street South (it's east now), lots 14/15. Other names listed under that building are: Mr. Dennis, P. J. O'Connor, Wong Loil?, John Sebben?, E. V. Hilborn and L. N. Grimm. (I have other records showing that Mr. Dennis and Werlich worked together.)
- In the 1921 assessment book for this building are: L. Grimm, A. R. Matthews, R. A. Holden, Chuck Wong, Howard Harper, Cluett & Peabody Co. Next door is the "Dom Govt Bldg" (post office).
- In the 1923 assessment book, the names are A. R. Matthews, R. A. Holden, Chuck? Wong, Howard Harper, L. Grimm, ? John Akers, ? Haskat. The Government building is next. With some similar names and the same location beside the post office, I know that I have the right building.
- Next I needed to find the street number and see if the building still stands. Back to the fire insurance maps which have street numbers. The map for 1919-1924 has a mix of 700 and 800 numbers in that block. Ray Ruddy, Preston historian, had told me some time ago that each block has only one one-hundred group. The 1939 map for that block has all 700s. The building next to the post office has numbers 748, 750, 752, 756 & 758.
- The last step was to confirm that I had the right building by matching occupants to the building number(s). I did that using Vernon's directories. Street numbers were included as of the early 1920s and in the 1922 directory, L. M. Grimm and Harper are shown at 756 King next to the post office. That's it!
- Later, I looked on Google Earth and copied a photo of the building (below). Google Earth has been very helpful.



*Why did I pursue this?* I have information about Werlich's long business history in Preston and I wanted to find his last location. It was also news to his relatives who have helped me with his history and that of their own Stager family funeral businesses in Preston and Hespeler. That made it doubly satisfying to identify the building. In 1928, Harry Stager, Werlich's nephew, built his new furniture and funeral building a few doors from where Werlich had been 10 years earlier. I wonder if Harry knew that? All of this and much more will be in my book!



## Two WHS Members Receive Kitchener City Builder Awards

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From Sandra Parks

"Countless people are committed to making our city great, and this year's recipients reflect what compassion and dedication can achieve. [They] make Kitchener a dynamic and exciting place to be for everyone," said Mayor Berry Vrbanovic.

### Don Bourgeois

Don Bourgeois has been active in the Waterloo Region for 40 years, focusing on municipal strategic planning, arts and culture, and economic development. He has volunteered countless hours to local organizations and civic committees such as the KW Art Gallery, KW Symphony and Compass Kitchener. As President of JM Drama Alumni Corporation he has supported arts recreation and learning through the production of community theatre. In 2000, Don was the principal architect of a plan that saw the old Land Registry Office converted into The Registry Theater. As founder of Createscape Waterloo Region, Don continues to support the creative community in Kitchener.

### Warren Stauch

Warren Stauch's passion for Kitchener's neighbourhoods, culture and heritage is demonstrated through the countless committees and city projects he has been involved with. Warren is a member of the Christkindl Market organizing committee, chair of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation and executive of the Auditorium Neighbourhood Association. He was also project co-leader in the implementation of the pavilion project in Knollwood Park. An avid volunteer, Warren is the director of business for the Volunteer Association of St. Mary's Hospital and volunteer for Joke Junction at Grand River Hospital. Known for having infectious enthusiasm, Warren has strengthened a sense of community in Kitchener for more than 50 years.

Introduced in 2015, the mayor's City Builder Award was created to recognize and bring attention to Kitchener citizens who have demonstrated a commitment to making our city, and community a better place today and in the future. The recipients and their families were acknowledged at a brunch and ceremony prior to the start of the mayor and council's New Year's Levee on January 8. <http://www.kitchener.ca/en/insidcityhall/mayor-s-city-builder-award.asp>

## Volunteer Service Awards

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Congratulations to the WHS members who will receive Volunteer Service Awards in April from the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration!

		Current role
Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt	30 years	Board of Directors & Publication Committee
Helen Lippert	5 years	Refreshments at WHS meetings
Ken Lippert	5 years	Refreshments at WHS meetings
Ray Ruddy	10 years	Board of Directors & Plaques Committee
Harold Russell	35 years	WHS Councilor for Kitchener & Plaques Committee
Diane Strickler	25 years	WHS Councilor for Woolwich Township

Thank you for your many years of service! A total of 110!

*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*

## A Little Bit of Vimy Ridge in Kitchener

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By rych mills

“Words fail me to express appreciation of this wonderful gift for our museum.”

As a ten-year-president of Waterloo Historical Society, David Panabaker was seldom at a loss for words. On October 30, 1936, he was.

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It's a long way from Kitchener-Waterloo and area to northern France. Only a handful of people from Waterloo County could have named one city or town in that area in 1913. Within five years, many of those place names had been seared into the Canadian consciousness ... and into numerous local families' personal histories. Armentières, Ypres, Béthune, Arras, Douai and Lens show up in many 20<sup>th</sup>-century Canadian history books.

One place name above all requires no book to remind us of its importance to our collective perception – Vimy. All nations and peoples have a touchstone around which their identity revolves. Many are military events – some successes, some disasters. Vimy is Canada's.

There *is* a small town named Vimy but it is the phrase Vimy Ridge that resonates through ten decades. The 1917 Battle for Vimy Ridge was the one and only time in the First World War that all four Canadian divisions fought side-by-side under a single command. The roll call of 3,600 Canadian dead is seen as a sacrifice so compelling, so painful, so heroic that a century later it is honoured like no other event of that war. It is also the basis for some of this country's most entrenched myths and fictions.

Vimy Ridge was a battle that took place, officially, from Easter Monday April 9<sup>th</sup> until the 12<sup>th</sup>. Canadian men died at Vimy long before April 9 and long after April 12 but those four days are officially The Battle of Vimy Ridge. Numerous Waterloo County soldiers were at Vimy that April. A dozen-and-a-half were killed outright in the official battle. Many more died of wounds afterwards. Galt's register of deaths that April was the lengthiest because men from the 111<sup>th</sup> South Waterloo battalion had landed much earlier in England than most of their fellow soldiers from the 118<sup>th</sup> North Waterloo battalion. So they had been transferred to active service battalions in France first.

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Fast forward to July 1936. Walter Allward's soaring \$1.5 million Canadian monument atop Hill 145 at Vimy Ridge is about to be unveiled. Six thousand Canadian veterans and families of the fallen travel to the ceremony. King Edward VIII, the King of Canada at the time, does the honours and charms the Canadians. Among the half dozen attending from Kitchener-Waterloo are three men who were in battle that April: Len Dingley, Syd Kirby and Alf Merse.

Following their return, Kirby, Merse and Dingley requested permission to attend the October 30, 1936 meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society at the YMCA. President D.N. Panabaker invited the trio to the front of the hall and was handed a nondescript glass jar. What was inside caused his shortage of words. “It is with some very deep feeling that I receive this soil from Vimy Ridge.”

WHS secretary Peter Fisher announced that what Merse, Dingley and Kirby had brought back from France and were now donating to WHS would immediately be placed in the society's museum at the Kitchener Public Library. Inside the glass jar was a mixture of soil, small stones, twigs and other unidentified items. On the day of the monument's unveiling, July 26, the men had gathered the soil from the side of Vimy Ridge.

That jar sat on display in the WHS museum until 1960 when all the artifacts the society had collected over 40 years, were re-assigned to the collection of the new Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation. In the re-named Doon Pioneer Village's new two-storey museum, the ordinary jar with the extraordinary contents was again put on display. In the mid-1990s, that small museum closed and into storage went the jar. When the Waterloo Region Museum opened in 2011, among the first items placed on long-term display was that jar of Vimy Ridge soil. It sits there today in the main gallery, plain dirt to some but to most it is an ongoing symbol of one of this country's proudest and most defining moments.

## Who We Are and How to Reach Us

**WEB SITE** [www.whs.ca](http://www.whs.ca)    **EMAIL** [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca)

### MAIL

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

**FACEBOOK** [www.facebook.com/waterloohs](http://www.facebook.com/waterloohs)

**TWITTER** WaterlooHS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt, publication committee

Karen Ball-Pyatt, archivist: [karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)

John Glass, secretary & web site committee chair: [jcglass@rogers.com](mailto:jcglass@rogers.com)

Sherwood Hagey, book table: [eshagey@hallandales.com](mailto:eshagey@hallandales.com)

Debbie Kroetsch, plaques committee

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

Nancy Maitland, Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation representative: [wthhs.info@gmail.com](mailto:wthhs.info@gmail.com)

rych mills, chair / editor publication committee: [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net), 519 742-4990

Marion Roes, newsletter editor & programs committee chair: [mlroes@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlroes@sympatico.ca), 519 883-1448

Ray Ruddy, plaques committee

Jeff Shank, treasurer: [jeff420shank@gmail.com](mailto:jeff420shank@gmail.com)

Warren Stauch, plaques committee chair: [mmegeo@golden.net](mailto:mmegeo@golden.net)

### COUNCILORS <http://www.whs.ca/councillor-duties/>

Cambridge: Joleen Taylor, David Emberly

Kitchener: Harold Russell, Maddie Dale, Eric Uhlmann, Todd Bowman

Waterloo: Jane Britton

North Dumfries Township: David Pyper

Wellesley Township: vacant

Wilmot Township: Patty Clarke

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

### BOOK TABLE

To donate or buy books, visit us at [www.whs.ca/booktable/](http://www.whs.ca/booktable/)

### MEMBERSHIPS

Renewals are / were due October 1. For membership questions, contact Mandy Macfie. Current members will receive their annual volume at the May 23 meeting or later by mail or delivery. Thank you for supporting WHS with your membership!

### ANNUAL VOLUME

If you have written something that relates to the history of Waterloo Region / County and would like it to be considered for the annual volume, see [www.whs.ca/authors/](http://www.whs.ca/authors/)

Table of Contents for all volumes from 1913 to present are at <http://www.whs.ca/volume-search/>

**DID YOU NOTICE** that the font size is different in this issue? Your feedback about it is welcome. [mlroes@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlroes@sympatico.ca)

**Thanks for help  
with producing and  
delivering this  
newsletter to:**

Mandy Macfie,  
Karen Ball-Pyatt,  
rych mills, Rosanne  
Atwater-Hallatt,  
Sandra Parks, Pat  
Bailey and all who  
send requests,  
stories, events etc.

The next newsletter  
will be out in July.

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

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# Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

## JULY 2017

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Marion Roes, Editor

### Public Meetings – All are welcome!

**Tuesday, September 19 at 7:30**

Doors open at 7

Victoria Park Pavilion

80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener

**At the Crossroads: The Oldest Hotel in Waterloo, Exploring the Early Years, 1840 - 1890 (With a Detour into the Present at The Waterloo Hotel) by Janice Harper**

As the oldest hotel in the city, The Waterloo Hotel is featured in glossy pamphlets and books. Yet little is known about the early history of this architectural landmark, the only hotel still functioning in its traditional role. Janice will answer questions like: *How did this urban hotel meet the needs of its agricultural neighbours? What can the hotel tell us about the early years of Waterloo?* You are invited to bring your memories and stories of eating, drinking or boarding at the hotel to share for a time after the presentation.

Janice Harper is a WHS member, a current student in the Master of Arts in History program at the University of Waterloo, and a former speaker at History Under the Trees. She loves learning about local history from fellow WHS members.

**My Story: The Documents Never Lie by Dianne Brydon**

Co-author of *The Stalwart Brydons*, Dianne Brydon, will give a brief talk about the extensive research for and the story of the Brydons' life in North Dumfries in the 1820s. Books will be available to buy at the meeting.

#### Free Volumes at the Book Table

WHS recently received a large gift of annual volumes with a wide range of years from the 1940s to 2012. They have minor, discrete library markings on covers and inside. They can be examined until 7:10 and then the giveaway of a maximum of five per member will take place until 7:25. After the meeting, it will continue with no limits; non-members will be eligible then.

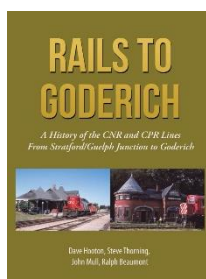
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**Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30**

Doors open at 7 – Annual General Meeting

Victoria Park Pavilion

80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener



Ralph Beaumont is also a returning speaker, this time to talk about the book *Rails To Goderich*, to which he was a contributing author. His talk will give an overview of the original Buffalo, Brantford & Lake Huron Railway, which later became the Grand Trunk, and eventually the Canadian National. Most pertinent to Waterloo Region, he will outline the Canadian Pacific, and its building from Guelph through Wellington and Waterloo Counties, through to Goderich. The latter was abandoned in 1988 (almost 30 years ago), although the ex-CNR became one of Ontario's first short line railways, and continues as the Goderich-Exeter Railway. Included in the presentation will be all the photos taken in Waterloo Region by CPR photographer Joseph Heckman when he undertook a complete photographic survey of the newly built Goderich line. This line is now the G2G (Guelph to Goderich) Trail. Beaumont's two books, *Heckman's Canadian Pacific: A Photographic Journey* and *Rails to Goderich*, will be for sale at a discount at the meeting. For more about the G2G Trail, see <http://www.g2grailtrail.com/>

Beaumont's two books, *Heckman's Canadian Pacific: A Photographic Journey* and *Rails to Goderich*, will be for sale at a discount at the meeting. For more about the G2G Trail, see <http://www.g2grailtrail.com/>

*The WHS Book Table, displays, refreshments and networking, are all parts of WHS meetings*

*All are welcome: members and non members. Free Admission*

*For information about the meeting, contact Marion Roes or Lesley Webb*

## Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

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Be sure to check out the **collection of digitized directories** being uploaded to the Grace Schmidt Room web pages. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers, Darryl, Marion and Jon for making this project a success!

Do you have old photos and memories of Kitchener to share? Taylor Jones is launching his new website, **Dear Kitchener** ([www.dearkitchener.com](http://www.dearkitchener.com)) this July. Take an old photo, superimpose it on its modern location and snap away! Upload to the website and share your unique recollections of time and place. Contact the GSR if you are looking for facts, addresses or other details to complement your photo memories.

Join me for the next presentation in the **“History in the ‘Hood”** series on **22 August** at the Central Library. We’re looking at our ‘hood, the Civic District. Program begins at 7 pm. Registration required. Call 519-743-7502 to register.

**Have photos to scan?** Join us in the Grace Schmidt Room on **14 October** during the **Latitudes Storytelling Festival** and we’ll show you how! No registration required.

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

- Tweedsmuir histories of the Ayr, Central Dumfries, Linwood and Dorking Women’s Institutes;
- Newspaper clippings, photographs and ephemera related to the GLBTQ2S/T community, and photographs and negatives related to the KW Latin American Support Group;
- Unidentified late-19<sup>th</sup> century studio portraits, some of which were taken by T.H. Smith of Galt;
- Postcards and film negatives from Elmira;
- A black and white Denton photograph, entitled “Old Comrades Banquet, Kitchener, Ont. Jan 16, 1932”;
- 17 black and white photographs belonging to Pearl (Stahle) McCarley, Edna Jonas Johnston, and Helen Stahle;
- Letters, family history notes, land deeds and abstracts, wills, invoices and family register related to the Hergott Farm, Waterloo;
- 13 colour slides of the Kitchener-Waterloo 1967 Centennial Parade;
- 1 sepia photograph of the 1948 Williamsburg School Reunion;
- Elmira Aquaducks newspaper clippings, newsletters and articles, dated from 2002 to early 2004;
- Photographs and documents relating to the life of Florence Edna Kehn (Morley) May, 1915-2002;
- 3 black and white photographs: studio portrait of a man (noted as Edward Ruggle, Floradale General Store), Elmira High School, Nov 1924 and Floradale School, Nov 1921;
- 1938 autograph book belonging to Edward Gordon Hagey (1921-1996) and 4 unidentified tintype portraits;
- 7 black and white photographs of a train being dug out of the snow by farmers at the Hawkesville Road crossing, near Martin’s Garage, St. Jacobs, 1947.

Cheers,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS archivist

Email [karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)

Phone 519-743-0271, ext. 252

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

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*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.*



## A History Teacher's Victoria Day Address

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Todd Bowman, May 22, 2017

It is often challenging as a history teacher to try to see history from the perspective of the high school students I teach. Their age and experience affects how they view the past in unique ways that often differs from that of adults'. Thus when asked about the holiday we celebrate today, my grade 10 history students offer some interesting thoughts about it.

They usually start in the right place: "It's to honour Queen Victoria's birthday." However, a few students recently were skeptical, reasoning "that can't be right because the date of the holiday changes every year." One student (jokingly, I think) said it was a holiday to honour Canada's most popular beer box size. Others simply saw the purpose of the holiday as irrelevant: "All I know is I don't have to go to school, so I don't really care."

If the conversation moves beyond the factual purpose of the holiday, its meaning becomes an even more blurred conversation. Most students noted the royal connection to the day, honouring a long-serving monarch who was on the British throne when Canada became a country 150 years ago, and who reigned as its head of state for Canada's first 33 years. Some said they admired her longevity and strength as a female leader in a male-dominated society. Others described her as a wise leader, but few could offer evidence of this, with only one student citing her decision to select Ottawa as Canada's capital. A few criticized her conservative and prudish time period, seeming to assume the era named after her (the Victorian era) was created by her instead of named for her. Don't worry: a little etymological correction allowed some students to recover a more positive regard for Victoria. But overall, there was an interesting admiration for a figure they generally knew little about.

It struck me later that the nature of these particular classroom discussions and the students engaging in them would have been very different in 1967 or certainly 1867. Virtually all students in the past would have declared their admiration for the royal family; now most still do but there are certainly fewer than there would have been in the past. And their reasons are varied and diverse, as are the students in Kitchener classrooms today as compared to when Queen Victoria reigned. In my current history class, one student's native heritage led her to associate the royal family with policies in Canada and other parts of the British Empire that affected her ancestors in negative, even traumatic ways. Another student is the son of immigrants from India, where Queen Victoria represents British Colonial policy and its tortured effects on his ancestral home. Queen Victoria is not to be blamed for all wrongs committed by the British during and after her reign, and certainly isn't by these particular students. But the changed demographics of Kitchener and Canadian students complicates and also widens the discussion of this holiday and the person at its genesis.

All of this yields a challenge to historians and those who admire Queen Victoria. How do we encourage this day to retain some meaning that relates to the holiday's origin? I can't offer a simple or easy solution to this quandary, but I can again speak as a history teacher. Everyday faces challenges, to deal with some students who are disinterested in the subject, others who are tired because class is first period, and those who are too-early looking past their final research essay to the summer that lays ahead. For all of them, and for the majority who are attentive and engaged, the challenge is to try to help them see in history what I see: the unique people, stories, settings and problems that are so different from today yet still have something to say to us. It has been said that the past is a foreign country; so how do I get them to travel there with me and experience a new world so different from theirs but one that is still somehow relevant today?

I see this holiday in a similar way, and close without offering much of an answer. But let those questions stay with you today as you enjoy Queen Victoria's Day (and her park). What can you say to others that will allow them to glimpse what you see in her life, in her reign, in an era that seems to drift further away from some people today? How can you engage with them so that this day continues to have some of the meaning it is intended to have, that celebrates a person and a time more than a century away from us today? So today, enjoy this beautiful park, a lovely holiday, and some time to ponder the namesake of both. Thank-you, and happy Victoria Day.

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### Requests to / from Readers

- *Volunteer teachers (teaching certificate not required) are needed for the Victorian Classroom at Suddaby School, Kitchener. Programs focus on grades 2 & 3 and 5/6, and Enrichment grades 4 to 8. For information contact Mary Kitchen, program coordinator 519 653-5498, or Helen Koepke 519 884-9461, or Margaret Dickson 519 742-2218.*

## Historical Happenings

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**BRUBACHER HOUSE** 519-886-3855 at the end of Frank Tompa Drive, Waterloo [bhouse@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:bhouse@uwaterloo.ca)  
<https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/about-conrad-grebel/affiliates-and-related-organizations/brubacher-house>

**May - October, Wednesday to Saturday**, open 2 - 5

The Brubacher House Museum at the University of Waterloo welcomed new live-in hosts, Laura and Joshua Enns. With interests in Mennonite history, community arts, education, and social and environmental justice, Laura and Joshua look forward to bringing the Pennsylvania German Mennonite story to life through an exciting season of public tours, programs, and events. *Contact them to book a tour or event. Tours by donation*

Like us on Facebook to find out about our special events at <https://www.facebook.com/brubacherhouse>

**CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM** Conestoga Mall between Hudson's Bay and the Galaxy Cinema

[www.waterloo.ca/museum](http://www.waterloo.ca/museum)

519-885-8828 Free admission

Tuesday – Friday: 9:30- 4 and

Every 4th Thursday and Saturday: Thurs 9:30-8 and Sat 9:30-4 *Additional July and August Hours* Saturday 9:30-4 and Sunday 11-5

**To January 26. Exhibit: This All Belongs to You – 150 Waterloo Stories of People, Places and Things**



To commemorate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, *THIS ALL BELONGS TO YOU!* celebrates all things Waterloo. Do you know who the Willow King is, Emma Belle Roos, Hop Wo or Manny McIntyre? The City of Waterloo Museum has been transformed into a curiosity shop of stories and objects. The museum's collection is full of awesome artifacts, that when curated together, tell the story of a strong community.

**DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION** - Discover the secret places of Waterloo Region!

**Saturday, September 16**, most sites open 10 - 5

A Google map and special events are at [www.regionofwaterloo.ca/doorsopen](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/doorsopen)

FREE architecture, heritage and tech event. Children's activities, music, drama presentations, walking tours.

*Pick up a Map & Guide at libraries, museums and tourism offices in Waterloo Region, late July to September, or in the Waterloo Region Record, Saturday, September 9.*

Call: 519-747-5139, email [doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca)

Twitter/Instagram @DoorsOpenWR; Like us on Facebook; post a photo on Flickr



*Heritage fans, please note! Some sites need volunteers. Please contact us at [doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca) if you are interested!*

**FRIENDS OF THE WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM** - Call the Waterloo Region Museum at 519 748-1914 to reserve your place

**October 1, 1 – 5. Pre-Confederation Heritage Bus Tour of the Waterloo Region.** The Waterloo Region is rich in pre-Confederation history and the tour will identify buildings, people, transportation routes and events in the Townships of Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich, and touch briefly on Kitchener and Waterloo. Tour starts and ends at the Waterloo Region Museum, 10 Huron Road, Kitchener. Cost \$60 includes motor coach with washroom; gratuities, narrated tour by knowledgeable guide; and refreshments at E. J.'s Tavern in Baden. For ages 14 and older. Spaces are limited, please sign up early. For more info, contact Warren Stauch [mmegeo@golden.net](mailto:mmegeo@golden.net)



**FRIENDS**

*This is a fundraising event of the Friends of the Waterloo Region Museum*

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST. BONIFACE AND MARYHILL COMMUNITY** [www.Maryhillroots.com](http://www.Maryhillroots.com) 1338 Maryhill Road  
**Sundays to September 3, 1-4** – The Edward Halter House is open for research. Wheel chair accessible. Other times by appointment. Contact [maryhillroots@gmail.com](mailto:maryhillroots@gmail.com) or Diane Strickler (519) 648-2432

**September 24. Heritage Day and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary!** Mass at 10 am; tour of wayside shrines at 10:45. Lunch at noon in the Maryhill Heritage Park Community Centre; silent auction and a special anniversary program. Tours on request of Edward Halter Home, Maryhill village and cemetery. Please contact if attending [maryhillroots@gmail.com](mailto:maryhillroots@gmail.com) or Diane Strickler (519) 648-2432

**November 19, 2 - 4 – Annual General Meeting** at the Maryhill Heritage Park Community Centre. Business meeting, refreshments, guest speaker and awards ceremony. All are welcome.

**HOMER WATSON HOUSE AND GALLERY** 1754 Old Mill Road, Kitchener 519 748-4377 [www.homerwatson.on.ca](http://www.homerwatson.on.ca)



**To August 13, The Annual Homer Watson Exhibition: *Sense of Place*,** features the work of Homer Watson, Marlene Kawalez, Mike Bergauer, and the Artist Critique Group. Admission \$5 donation

**September 14, 12 – 1. Walking Tour of Homer Watson Park** led by rymills who will explore the development of this keynote Kitchener park, formerly known as Cressman's Woods, along the Grand River and

Schneider Creek. Light refreshments and tours of Homer Watson's former home are included. Admission \$10 / free to current members. For information and to reserve a place, call or go to <http://www.homerwatson.on.ca/lunchtime-lounge-september-2017/>

**IDEA EXCHANGE** [ideaexchange.org](http://ideaexchange.org) 519 621-0460 Cambridge

**Cambridge Third Age Learning**, Trillium United Church, 450 King St. E. Call 519 621-0460 to register. \$8.85 + HST  
**August 10, 10 am - 12** Living Life at the End of Your Comfort Zone: Chapter Two with Ian Evans

**July 28, 2 - 3:30**, Idea Exchange, Queen's Square, 1 North Square. Free

**NFB Film Club: *An Idea of Canada*:** Former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and her husband, John Ralston Saul, embark on a journey to Canada's three seacoasts by boat, small plane, snowmobile, pickup truck and canoe.

**August 19, 10 – 4**, Idea Exchange, Queen's Square, 1 North Square. Free

**Retro Gaming Day.** Experience the history of video games from Pong to Xbox with our interactive retro gaming exhibit powered by The Personal Computer Museum. Try out classics, experience games you likely didn't even know existed.

**August 23, 2 – 3**, Idea Exchange, Preston, 435 King St. E.

**My Story: The Documents Never Lie**

In researching for their book, *The Stalwart Brydons*, authors Dianne Brydon and James Brydon, PhD, discovered evidence which refuted their own family lore. In this talk, Dianne discusses their investigation and tells the story of the Brydons' life in North Dumfries. A book signing will follow the presentation.

**August 25, 2 – 3 pm**, Idea Exchange, Queen's Square, 1 North Square. Free

**NFB Film Club: *Angry Inuk*.** Inuit director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril joins a tech-savvy generation of Inuit as they challenge long-established views of seal hunting. Anti-sealing activism has created a perception of the industry that denies the Inuit's central role in the sealskin market.

**September 28, 6 – 8 pm.** Trillium United Church, 450 King St., E. Free

**One Book, One Community: Meet the Author**

Connect with Wayne Grady, author of the 2017 One Book, One Community selection, *Emancipation Day*  
For more information, visit [ideaexchange.org](http://ideaexchange.org) or call 519 621-0460.

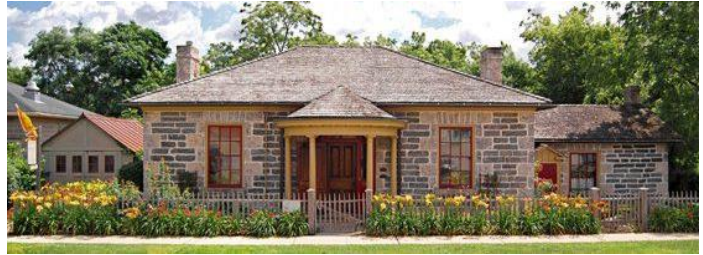
**KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POST CARD CLUB (KWCRPCC)** [www.kwcrpcc.com](http://www.kwcrpcc.com)

**September 14**, meeting with speaker, postcard collectors and vendors. Doors open at 6:30 for browsing and buying; program at 7:35. Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) or 519 742-4990

**MCDUGALL COTTAGE MUSEUM**

[www.mcdougallcottage.com](http://www.mcdougallcottage.com)

89 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge / Galt  
519 624-8250  
[mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca)



**October 11**, 7 pm (rescheduled from May 18)

**"Early Undertakers of Galt and Area: When, Who, Where?"** Local historian and author,

Marion Roes, will take a look at undertaking businesses in Cambridge, focusing on the Galt area in particular. Roes is currently researching for a book about histories of all the undertaking businesses in Waterloo Region. \$5 plus HST. Please call in advance to register.

**MENNONITE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO** Conrad Grebel University College, 140 Westmount Road North, Waterloo  
519-885-0220 x24238 [marchive@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:marchive@uwaterloo.ca) Monday to Friday, 8:30 - 4:30

**Ongoing** - Exhibit: **"Sites of Nonresistance: Ontario Mennonites and the First World War.** These stories are gleaned from letters, diaries, newspapers, photographs, government documents and family histories found in the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, including "an unusual story... about Gordon Eby who was a long way from his home and Mennonite roots in Kitchener...." Together, they paint a picture of the Great War from a "peace church" perspective. <https://uwaterloo.ca/mennonite-archives-ontario/sites-nonresistance>

**THE GALLERY IN VICTORIA PARK**, 83 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener. Free admission [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) or 519 742-4990  
**To October.** Weekends and holiday afternoons 1-4. Come for the first time or return to this hidden gem, a mini museum with Berlin and Kitchener artifacts, history and memorabilia. There are books for sale and much to see.

**SCHNEIDER HAUS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** [www.josephschneiderhaus.com](http://www.josephschneiderhaus.com) 466 Queen Street South, Kitchener

**The Region would like your input on the potential enhancement of the Schneider Haus**

*Schneider Haus (circa 1816) is Kitchener's oldest dwelling and a National Historic Site. The Region has owned and operated the living history museum since 1981. In 1989/91, the two neighbouring properties (474 and 484 Queen Street South) were purchased with plans to demolish the houses and use the lands to improve the museum. These houses are now part of the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District.*



Window display at the Haus, daily **thru July 22**, 2017

Staffed display at Schneider Creek Porch Party – Saturday **July 22**, 10 - 7

View information and provide your input anytime at [www.engageregionofwaterloo.ca](http://www.engageregionofwaterloo.ca)

Contact Kate Hagerman [hkagerman@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:hkagerman@regionofwaterloo.ca) 519-575-4400 TTY: 519-575-4608

**August 17**, 5 - 6 pm, **Happy Birthday Canada Neighbourhood Walk**

Join local historian rych mills for a guided walk / exploration to find out what the "Schneiderhood" was like in 1867 and how it developed. Enjoy stories describing how, within a few years of Canada's Confederation, Berlin's downtown began growing south toward the Schneider farm. After the walk, come back to the Haus for cookies and lemonade. This will be a 90-minute brisk walk with a halfway snack break provided by Schneider Haus. Bring your own water bottle. Pre-registration required. Call 519-742-7752 \$10 plus HST

**WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM** 10 Huron Road, Kitchener 519 748-1914 [www.waterlooregionmuseum.com](http://www.waterlooregionmuseum.com)

*Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often*

**September 22 – January 7** (start date was rescheduled). **Trailblazing: Women in Canada, 1867 to Today**, explores what it means to be a woman in Canada throughout our 150-year history, including what it meant at the time of Confederation. The exhibit examines how women's roles have transformed politics, work and everyday life. Five main themes explore the body, violence against women, feminism, politics / law and work. The exhibit will also examine work that still needs to be done in the 21st century with respect to women's rights, different experiences based on race, class and ethnicity, and the experiences of the "everyday" woman.

#### **WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY (WTHHS)**

1137 Henry Street [info@wellesleyhistory.org](mailto:info@wellesleyhistory.org)



*Harold Russell and friend imagining the past in the History Room of the WTHHS.*

**Last Saturdays, January to November**, 10 – 3, the Historical Room is open for visitors. Other times by appointment.

**September 30**, 9 – 2 during the Apple Butter and Cheese Festival

**What is your Story?** WTHHS is sponsoring a History Prize at the Wellesley North Easthope Fall Fair. Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday by learning more about your family's history. Info is at [www.wellesleyhistory.org](http://www.wellesleyhistory.org)

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## **Woolwich and Wellesley Cultural Heritage Landscape Study 2017**

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The Heritage Resources Centre at the University of Waterloo has partnered with the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and local governments to complete a Cultural Heritage Landscape (CHL) study focused in the townships of Woolwich and Wellesley. This study aims to help these municipalities satisfy Provincial planning requirements as well as serve as the basis for evaluating participatory planning methods.

Planning regulation in Ontario directs that municipalities conserve significant Cultural Heritage Landscapes. This requires identifying and determining the extent to which CHLs are valued by communities.

What is a cultural heritage landscape? To put it simply, a CHL is an area which contains value or importance to a community for several reasons. It could be because of its distinctive character, cultural importance, or its contribution to our understanding of past and present events, places, and peoples.

The study will use various survey methods such as one-on-one interviews, community action kits, a web-based survey and mapping exercise, and asking participants to take photos and write descriptions of those places that are important to them, their community, or business. If you would like more information on this study please contact Rebecca Koroll and Christopher DeGeer at [2017uwchl@gmail.com](mailto:2017uwchl@gmail.com) or call them at [519 888 4567 Ext 36921](tel:5198884567)

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## **Kudos, Thank yous and Congratulations**

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**Thank you for help delivering the WHS volume!** To everyone who picked up a copy for those who couldn't attend the May meeting, to my fellow board members for delivering to their neighbourhoods, and to **David Gingrich** for helping me deliver the bulk of the remaining volumes. This assistance makes possible the task of hand-delivering many volumes, and helps keep postage to a minimum. All volumes should be delivered when you receive this newsletter. However, if you have not received yours by the end of July, please contact me. Mandy Macfie [msmacfie@gmail.com](mailto:msmacfie@gmail.com), 519 572-7510 (evenings)



- The **WHS publication committee and authors** – some are WHS members and some are not – produced another superb volume. We are fortunate to have a local history publication of such outstanding content and quality. If you would like to express your appreciation for the volume or a particular story, but don't know contact information, an email can be sent to [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca).

- **Helen Koepke and Margaret Dickson** were inducted into the Waterloo Region Hall of Fame for their work in education. <http://www.waterlooregionmuseum.ca/en/exhibits/2017-hall-of-fame-inductees.aspx>

.... In their retirement, Koepke and Dickson continue their focus on education – of both children and adults. In 1996, they founded and developed the Victorian Classroom, located in Suddaby School in Kitchener. Re-creating a classroom for the year 1900, Koepke and Dickson wrote education programs for elementary grades, so that students could experience a school day from a century ago. With the support of the Waterloo Region District School Board, hundreds of students visited the Victorian Classroom and gained a better understanding of education in the past....

There is much more written about these inductees at the link above.

- **Karen Ball-Pyatt** received the Sally Thorsen Award from the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation (WRHF). From the 2016 WRHF Annual Report:

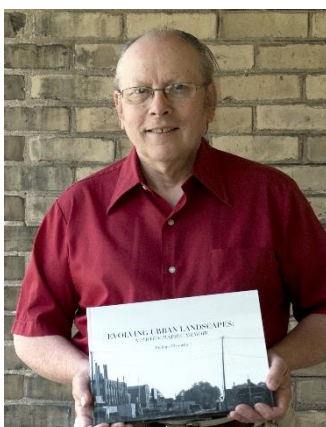
This award may be presented to...one person who has demonstrated, in the course of at least ten years of their professional lives, an outstanding level of commitment to heritage concerns in the Region of Waterloo. Karen is the Local History Librarian, and Archivist at Kitchener Public Library, and a member of the Archives Association of Ontario. Karen has also developed a popular local history blog.... organized a KPL Genealogy Fair for a number of years. Karen is willing and happy to help anyone who visits the Grace Schmidt Room to explore the local history of the area, and discover new things.... We are honoured to present the Sally Thorsen Award of Excellence to a woman who is so passionate about the heritage of Waterloo Region, and who encourages everyone to fully explore the local heritage, and develop their own passion for the region.



*Karen Ball-Pyatt was presented with the Sally Thorsen Award by Nancy Maitland, Waterloo Historical Society's representative on the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation. Photo by Warren Stauch*

- **Marie Voisin** received an Award of Excellence from the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation. From the 2016 WRHF Annual Report:

...for her work on the restoration of the Imperial Hotel in New Hamburg, and for her efforts to return the hotel back to its Edwardian State.... Marie purchased the Imperial Hotel in 2015, and while she was restoring the building Marie kept a blog, where she detailed the treasures, as well as the structural changes that were made to the building. Marie made sure that fine detail was paid attention while restoring many of the hotel's original features....The hotel is used now as one bedroom units on the second and third floors, as well as a bakery, brewery, travel office, and restaurant on the main floor, showing a great example of adaptive reuse....



- **Phillippe Elsworthy** received the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation History Prize for his book, *Evolving Urban Landscapes: A Photographic Memoir*.

From the judges statement given at the presentation:

*Evolving Urban Landscapes* is a catalogue from a 2014 exhibit at the Joseph Schneider Haus Museum.... Elsworthy's sometimes haunting, artistically composed photos do more than simply document places that are no more. They make us reconsider, or even look for the first time at these sometimes mundane buildings, many of which we took for granted, and to see them in a new light. The brief but intelligent observations accompanying each photo give us an idea why Elsworthy was drawn to take the photo in the first place, and provide us with a bit of historical context and architectural information, without being too wordy. Some of the photos are hand tinted which adds to their atmosphere. Moody, artful and modern are words that come to mind.

*Photo by Kae Elgie*

- **The Ernie Ritz Hopaweizen.** How many people do you know who have had a beer named for them? A new craft brewery, Bitte Schön Brauhaus in The Imperial Hotel, New Hamburg, made one for our esteemed WHS member, past president, and New Hamburg's former mayor, current historian and favourite son. Another WHS member / reviewer states: "It was a very tasty beer! I would definitely drink it again." For a complete description, see <https://www.bitteschonbrauhaus.com/single-post/2017/04/14/Meet-Our-New-Beer---The-Ernie-Ritz-Hopaweizen>
- **Jane (Snider) Epp** (The Miller's Daughter) has written *Lemonade Memories: A History of the St. Jacobs Mill*. "Old Yoch Schneider was my great-great-grandfather, and this is my family's story." It will be published about mid September. To buy a copy, contact Jane at [rainbowremedy@sympatico.ca](mailto:rainbowremedy@sympatico.ca)
- **Blain Bechtold** spearheaded the restoration of Baden's Fargo fire truck which was purchased in 1940 and served the local department for 26 years. About four years ago the Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigade decided to bring the vintage truck back to its former glory. And they did! See "In Baden a familiar truck rides again," by Dylan DaCosta, *Waterloo Region Record*, July 4, 2017; [www.therecord.com](http://www.therecord.com)

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## The Annual Volume Patronage Program is Changing

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Since its inception in 1997, the level of patron donation has been capped at \$100. The monies received go towards the expense of producing the annual volume. In response to a number of requests by past donors, the WHS Board has agreed to establish tiered levels of giving. Beginning with donations made this year (for the 2018 volume) the amounts and designation levels will be:

**Friend:** \$100 - \$199

**Partner:** \$200 - \$499

**Benefactor:** \$500+

Donors names and recognition levels will be published in the annual volume and online at the WHS website, unless indicated otherwise on the donation form. Published donor lists will be refreshed annually.

For almost 105 years, the Waterloo Historical Society has published an annual volume containing research articles of local historical significance and interest. It is a unique and singular publication within Waterloo Region. On May 15, 1993 the Scadding Award of Excellence was presented to the WHS in recognition of its annual volume by the Ontario Historical Society.\* This annual award distinguishes historical societies or heritage groups that have made an outstanding contribution to the field of history or who have made a significant contribution to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's history and heritage.

Each year the Waterloo Historical Society relies on the monetary gifts from donors like you to significantly support the design and publication costs of our award-winning annual volume. It is our largest ongoing expense. Simply put, your donations make it possible for our work to continue. Charitable tax receipts are issued for all donations received.

The WHS board of directors acknowledges and greatly appreciates your ongoing support. Thank you.

\*The award was named in honour of Canon Henry Scadding (1813-1901), the founding member and first president of the Pioneer Association of Ontario (which later reorganized and incorporated in 1898 into what is now the Ontario Historical Society).

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## Condolences

- On behalf of WHS, we offer condolences to Helen Weber and her family for the death of their husband and father, Graham Weber. He passed away on June 5.



### **“The Grace Schmidt Room is now Complete”**

When we moved into our new Grace Schmidt Room (GSR) in May 2014, I always knew that the room never felt complete.... There was one thing that was missing – a portrait of Susan Hoffman. Susan was the first Grace Schmidt Room Librarian at the Kitchener Public Library. She is responsible for the collection and services we offer today.... She worked tirelessly developing the local history and genealogy collection and related services, which were launched on 14 October 1984. She was my mentor and role model. It's taken me a while, but I'm pleased to announce that Susan Hoffman's portrait is in the Grace Schmidt Room.... It reminds me daily of her professionalism, dedication and legacy – which is evident in all that we do and strive to achieve. Susan is back in the GSR. And the Grace Schmidt Room is complete. From Karen Ball-Pyatt's blog, "Historically Speaking," June 5, 2017. Susan's portrait is with those of Mabel Dunham and Grace Schmidt.

**Submissions for the next annual volume – A reminder from the WHS publication committee:** *Submissions for the next annual volume, to be published in May 2018, are to be made to the committee **by September 30**. Before then, over the summer, please advise the editor, rych mills, of your plans to send in an article. Essays must touch on some subject or topic pertinent to Waterloo County / Region history. For more information, check the WHS website: [www.whs.ca/volume](http://www.whs.ca/volume) or contact [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net)*

## **Who We Are and How to Reach Us**

**Web Site** [www.whs.ca](http://www.whs.ca)  
**Email** [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca)

**Mail:** Waterloo Historical Society  
 c/o Grace Schmidt Room, 85 Queen  
 Street North, Kitchener ON N2H 2H1

**Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/waterloohs](http://www.facebook.com/waterloohs)

**Twitter** WaterlooHS

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[jcglass@rogers.com](mailto:jcglass@rogers.com)

**Archivist:** Karen Ball-Pyatt  
[karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)

**Membership Chair:** Mandy Macfie  
[msmacfie@gmail.com](mailto:msmacfie@gmail.com)  
 519 572-7510 (evenings)

**Editor, Newsletter:** Marion Roes,  
[mlroes@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlroes@sympatico.ca), 519 883-1448

**Editor, Publication Cmte:** rych mills  
[rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net), 519 742-4990

**Plaques Cmte Chair:** Warren Stauch  
[mmegeo@golden.net](mailto:mmegeo@golden.net)

**Book Table:** Sherwood Hagey  
[eshagey@hallandales.com](mailto:eshagey@hallandales.com)

### **Directors**

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 David Emberly, 519 620-9402  
[emberly9@hotmail.com](mailto:emberly9@hotmail.com)  
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 Wellesley Township: Vacant  
 Wilmot Township: Patty Clarke  
 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*

### **Book Table**

*To donate or buy books, come to our meetings or visit us at [www.whs.ca/booktable/](http://www.whs.ca/booktable/)*

### **Memberships**

*Contact Mandy Macfie for membership information. Membership year is October 1 to September 30. Forms may be printed from the WHS web site. Thank you for supporting WHS with your membership!*

**Thank you for help with this newsletter to:** Todd Bowman, Mandy Macfie, Karen Ball-Pyatt, Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt, Jane Epp, Nancy Maitland, Harold Russell, Warren Stauch, Kae Elgie, all who send requests, stories, photos, events etc.

*The next issue will be out in October.*

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

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# Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

## OCTOBER 2017

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Marion Roes, Editor

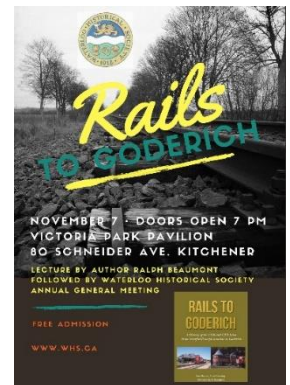
### Public Meeting – All are welcome!

**Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30**

Doors open at 7 – Annual General Meeting

Victoria Park Pavilion  
80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener

Ralph Beaumont will talk about the book *Rails To Goderich*, for which he was a contributing author. He will give an overview of the original Buffalo, Brantford & Lake Huron Railway, which later became the Grand Trunk, and eventually the Canadian National. Most pertinent to Waterloo Region, he will outline the Canadian Pacific, and its building from Guelph through Wellington and Waterloo Counties, through to Goderich. The latter was abandoned in 1988, although the ex-CNR became one of Ontario's first short line railways, and continues as the Goderich-Exeter Railway. Included in the presentation will be all the photos taken in Waterloo Region by CPR photographer Joseph Heckman when he undertook a complete photographic survey of the newly-built Goderich line. Beaumont's two books, *Heckman's Canadian Pacific: A Photographic Journey* and *Rails to Goderich*, will be for sale at a discount at the meeting.



The Goderich line is now the G2G (Guelph to Goderich) Trail. Doug Cerson, executive director of the Guelph to Goderich Rail Trail Inc., will be on hand to answer questions about it. See also <http://www.g2grailtrail.com/>

Everyone is invited to participate in the annual general meeting conducted by president Lesley Webb immediately following the lecture. The AGM is an occasion for the Board of Directors to account for its conduct and activities during the preceding year and offer an insight to its plans for the future. Members are eligible to vote.

*All are welcome: members and non members. Free Admission  
For information about the meeting, contact Marion Roes or Lesley Webb*

***Details of the next meetings will be in the next newsletter, on the web site and Facebook***

### **\$500 Local History Award** **Attention Third- and Fourth-Year History Students at WLU and UW!**

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Are you or do you know a third- or fourth-year history student at WLU or UW? If so, they are eligible to apply through their respective department for a \$500 local history award offered annually to each university by the Waterloo Historical Society. Along with the cash award is the possibility of having the paper published in the annual volume of the society. Waterloo Region history must be a significant aspect of the paper's research but the overall theme may take in a wider area. For further details, please go to <http://www.whs.ca/local-history-award/>. On that page are the award winners and titles of their papers.

## Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

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As the year speeds along, the Grace Schmidt Room staff has been busy welcoming visiting researchers, and undertaking different projects. Thanks to our volunteers, we are scanning photographs, glass negatives and slides, which are being uploaded to Our Digital World (<http://vitacollections.ca/kpl-gsr>). Check out the site as new content is being uploaded weekly.

Be sure to join us on Wednesday **November 29** at 7pm at the Forest Heights Community Library – our own Marion Roes will be speaking on “Uncovering Waterloo County Undertakers” in support of the KPL Obituary Indexing Project. It’s free, but registration is required. Register online or call KPL’s InfoLink at 519-743-7502 during Library hours.

Save **Saturday 21 April 2018** on your calendar for the **KPL Genealogy Fair!** Mags Gaulden of Grandma’s Genes ([www.grandmasgenes.com](http://www.grandmasgenes.com)) is our keynote speaker. The Fair will be held at the Central Library from 9am-3pm. Watch the Historically Speaking blog for more details!

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

- 2 framed Denton panoramic photographs of Garage Operators Association Picnic, Waterloo County Branch, one dated 11 August 1937 and one at Klies Farm, Bridgeport, dated 26 July 1939.
- 12 digital copies of Twin City Automotive Machine Shop interior and machinery;
- 1 coloured photograph of Sylvester Wilken (1894-1937);
- 1 paper copy of Oberholtzer Family Memorial Plaque and burial information; and
- 1 colour postcard of Arthur Street, Elmira, looking south, 1 article entitled "Brief History of St. Paul's Church, Elmira, Ontario," dated ca. 1935, 1 Grand Celebration at Elmira on Queen's Birthday, May 24, 1890 ribbon, 1 cross-stitch marker "The Crown of Glory," 2 ribbons commemorating St. Paul's Lutheran, Elmira, Frauenverein - Ladies' Aid, 1912 and 1987; and two decorative bookmarks, one with flowers and bible verse, and the other with stitched flowers.

Cheers,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS archivist

Email [karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)

Phone 519-743-0271, ext. 252

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

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## Have You Heard?

Each year the Waterloo Historical Society relies on the monetary gifts from donors to significantly support the design and publication costs of our award-winning annual volume. *WHS has changed its annual volume patron program and is now offering three new donor levels:*

**Friend: \$100 - \$199**

**Partner: \$200 - \$499**

**Benefactor: \$500+**

Donors names and recognition levels will be published in the annual volume and on the website, unless the donor has indicated otherwise on the membership / donation form. Published donor lists will be refreshed annually.

Please note that donations received by December 31 will be eligible for a 2017 charitable tax receipt. Members are encouraged to mail their donation in November or early December if possible.

The WHS board of directors acknowledges and greatly appreciates your ongoing support for the annual volume and our other programs. Thank you.



## Historical Happenings

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**BRUBACHER HOUSE** 519-886-3855 at the end of Frank Tompa Drive, Waterloo [bhouse@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:bhouse@uwaterloo.ca)  
<https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/about-grebel/our-partners/brubacher-house>

**May - October, Wednesday to Saturday**, open 2 - 5

Tours are available by appointment at other times throughout the year. <https://www.facebook.com/brubacherhouse>

**CASTLE KILBRIDE**, 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden 519 634-8444 <http://www.wilmot.ca/en/Castle-Kilbride-Museum.aspx>  
**To January 7, Exhibit: To Canada with Love from Wilmot.** In celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this exhibit features 150 people, products and events that put Wilmot Township on the national stage. From Sir Adam Beck to Baden Limburger cheese, this exhibit shows what makes Wilmot a great community.

**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ARCHIVES & RECORDS CENTRE**, 46 Dickson St. 519 740-4680 x4633 <https://archive.cambridge.ca>  
**Congratulations Lynn Griggs!** Lynn sent an email in May and wrote, "Having been accepted for the retirement program and after nearly 30 years at the City of Cambridge I would like to take this opportunity to wish my colleagues all the best. Last day is May 31."

*Dan Schmalz has been and is continuing to work in the archives, but it may not be full time. Call or email if you plan to visit.*

**CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM** Conestoga Mall between Hudson's Bay and the Galaxy Cinema



[www.waterloo.ca/museum](http://www.waterloo.ca/museum) 519-885-8828 Free admission  
Tuesday – Friday: 9:30- 4 & every 4th Thursday & Saturday: Thurs 9:30-8; Sat 9:30-4

**To January 26, Exhibit: This All Belongs to You – 150 Waterloo Stories of People, Places and Things.** The City of Waterloo Museum has been transformed into a curiosity shop of stories and objects. The museum's collection is full of awesome artifacts, that when curated together, tell the story of a strong community.

**DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION** - Did you discover the secret places of Waterloo Region?! THANK YOU to the Doors Open hosts, volunteers and visitors! What places would you like to see and volunteer at next year?

*Kudos to Doors Open Waterloo Region and all the volunteers for 15 years of opening doors of local history, industry, churches, schools, businesses, libraries, mausoleums, tech hubs, and eco / green spaces. Ed.*



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST. BONIFACE AND MARYHILL COMMUNITY** [www.Maryhillroots.com](http://www.Maryhillroots.com) 1338 Maryhill Road  
**October to June** The Edward Halter House is open for research by appointment. Wheelchair accessible. Contact [maryhillroots@gmail.com](mailto:maryhillroots@gmail.com) or Diane Strickler (519) 648-2432

**November 19, 2 – 4, 40th Anniversary Annual General Meeting** at the Maryhill Heritage Park Community Centre. Business meeting, refreshments. Guest speaker is Marilyn Crow and she will speak about the "Evolution of the Family Farm." All are welcome.

**HOMER WATSON HOUSE AND GALLERY** 1754 Old Mill Road,  
Kitchener 519 748-4377 [www.homerwatson.on.ca](http://www.homerwatson.on.ca)

*See the article on page 7 about Homer Watson by Faith Hieblinger.*



**KITCHENER PUBLIC LIBRARY, FOREST HEIGHTS BRANCH**, 251 Fischer-Hallman Road, Kitchener

**November 29 at 7 pm** – Speaker Marion Roes' talk **"Uncovering Waterloo County's Undertakers"** is about solving history mysteries while researching for her book about this area's undertaking businesses.

Register online or call KPL's InfoLink at 519-743-7502 during Library hours. Free

**KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POST CARD CLUB (KWCRPCC)** [www.kwcrpcc.com](http://www.kwcrpcc.com)

**November 8**, meeting with speaker, postcard collectors and vendors. Doors open at 6:30 for browsing and buying; program at 7:35. Meetings are free. Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener. Contact [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) or 519 742-4990 for information and to receive a sample newsletter. Membership \$20.

**MCDUGALL COTTAGE MUSEUM**

[www.mcdougallcottage.com](http://www.mcdougallcottage.com)

89 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge / Galt

519 624-8250

[mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca)



**November 16, 7 pm, Talk: "Our Victorian Christmas" with Karen Richardson**, Curator of the Haldimand County Museum. For those who

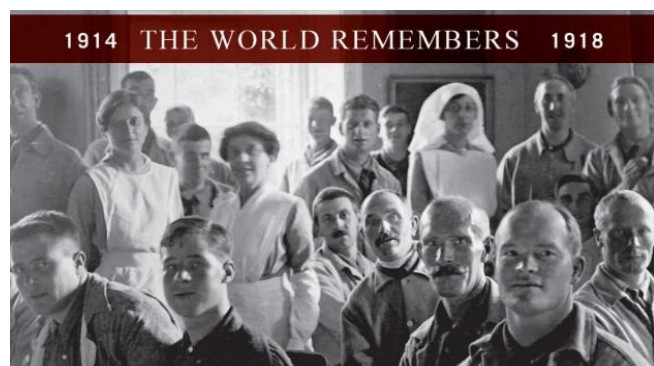
celebrate it, the Christmas season abounds with holiday customs and traditions. The first Christmas tree, for example, was put up by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert at the palace in 1841! Karen will take a closer look at the Victorian and Edwardian Christmas traditions that continue today. \$5 plus HST. Call to register

**MENNONITE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO** Conrad Grebel University College, 140 Westmount Road North, Waterloo

519-885-0220 x24238 [marchive@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:marchive@uwaterloo.ca) Monday to Friday, 8:30 - 4:30

**Ongoing - Exhibit: "Sites of Nonresistance: Ontario Mennonites and the First World War.** These stories are gleaned from letters, diaries, newspapers, photographs, government documents and family histories found in the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, including "an unusual story... about Gordon Eby who was a long way from his home and Mennonite roots in Kitchener...." Together, they paint a picture of the Great War from a "peace church" perspective.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/mennonite-archives-ontario/sites-nonresistance>



**The World Remembers: 1914 - 1918.** Every day from September 25 to November 11, the names of 661,818 soldiers and nurses on all sides of the First World War killed in 1917 will be displayed at more than 60 locations around the world. The commemoration is a unique expression of remembrance, reconciliation and education, and shows the enormous human cost of the war. The Mennonite Archives of Ontario Gallery (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Conrad Grebel University College) will be one of these display locations.



**PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF ONTARIO (PGFSO)** <http://www.pgfsocan.com/publications/>

For Sale: PGFSO Canadian-German Folklore publications: Volumes, No. 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 21. A short description of each is on the web site. All are for sale at the New Hamburg Thrift Centre – Mennonite Central Committee, 41 Heritage Drive. Prices are \$2 and \$4. For information contact Ralph and Dorothy Shantz at rdshantz@hotmail.com or Sherwood Hagey at eshagey@hallandales.com

**SCHNEIDER HAUS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** [www.josephschneiderhaus.com](http://www.josephschneiderhaus.com) 466 Queen Street South, Kitchener

*Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often*

**Cooking the Past: Historic Cooking Classes** - Adults. Pre-registration required. 519 742-7752

**October 28, 10 – 4, Part 3: Cooking with Fire II** (Hearth & Home). Help prepare a basic meal using the hearth in the wash house. Cost \$90 + HST

**November 25, 10 – 4, Part 4: Cooking with Fire III** (The Historic House Stove and the emergence of Household Science) – Learn how the recipes of today really got their start in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and how the wood-fired cook stove works. Help prepare a meal in the historic haus. Cost \$90 + HST



**Schneider Haus**  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

**WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM** 10 Huron Road, Kitchener 519 748-1914 [www.waterlooregionmuseum.com](http://www.waterlooregionmuseum.com)

*Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often*

**To January 7 - Trailblazing: Women in Canada, 1867 to Today**, explores what it means to be a woman in Canada throughout our 150-year history, including what it meant at the time of Confederation. The exhibit examines how women's roles have transformed politics, work and everyday life. Five main themes explore the body, violence against women, feminism, politics / law and work. The exhibit will also examine work that still needs to be done in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with respect to women's rights, different experiences based on race, class and ethnicity, and the experiences of the "everyday" woman.

**WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY (WTHHS)** 1137 Henry Street [info@wellesleyhistory.org](mailto:info@wellesleyhistory.org)

**Last Saturdays, January to November**, 10 – 3, the Historical Room is open for visitors. Other times by appointment.

## Requests to / from Readers

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- *Volunteer teachers (teaching certificate not required) are needed* for the Victorian Classroom at Suddaby School, Kitchener. Programs focus on grades 2 & 3 and 5/6, and Enrichment grades 4 to 8. There isn't a web site, so if you don't know what the Victorian Classroom is, one of these three persons will tell you. Contact Mary Kitchen, program coordinator 519 653-5498, or Helen Koepke 519 884-9461, or Margaret Dickson 519 742-2218.
- 
- Laura Madokoro, an assistant professor in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University, is undertaking new research on the history of sanctuary in Canada from the 1800s to the present. She writes: I am looking at both religious and secular acts of sanctuary and I am most interested in learning about sanctuary offers that might be in archival / museum / library holdings and would appreciate guidance on searching these holdings. I also suspect that many stories of sanctuary are known by people in the communities where sanctuary once took place. I would appreciate assistance in tracking down local histories / local lore. I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns and I can be reached at [laura.madokoro@mcgill.ca](mailto:laura.madokoro@mcgill.ca). Sincerely, and with many thanks, Laura Madokoro.
- Nancy Silcox plans to write a book about the Baden Hotel, now E. J.'s, and would like to hear personal stories, anecdotes, and tidbits about it; your own or ones you heard from parents and / or grandparents. "What I'm looking for are anecdotes / stories—written or oral, revolving around the Baden Hotel or E.J.'s as it was known for many years: famous guests? shady goings on? politicians' celebratory get-togethers? theories on the mystery artist? mysterious Masons? Stories...stories... true or rumoured." If you have any to share, contact Nancy at [silcox@cwisp.ca](mailto:silcox@cwisp.ca)

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## Remembering Peter Etril Snyder

By rych mills

*The topic of the July 8 WHS meeting, History Under the Trees at Doon Heritage Village, was “Celebrating a Half-Century of Painting Waterloo Region – Peter Etril Snyder.” Attendees were invited to bring a favourite Peter Etril Snyder print or painting and talk briefly about it. This is taken from rych mills’ introduction. Sadly, Peter died August 28. Our condolences to Peter’s wife Marilyn, and his brothers Don and Doug and their families.*

A half-century ago, in the late 1950s, someone whose name we all know today, began his lifelong quest to capture the traditions of rural life and history in Waterloo County. We envisioned today’s meeting to celebrate Peter’s half century of



*Doug Snyder talked about his brother  
Both photos courtesy of John Glass*

painting *Waterloo County* and while doing so, paying honour to its traditions, founding settlers and special attributes. We wish Peter was here today but as most know, he is too ill to attend. We have a number of people prepared to talk about how Pete helped at their historic site, their social service, their public project, and we hope members of the audience will each say a few words about how their lives have intersected with Peter over the past 50 years.

Waterloo Historical Society has long been connected with Peter. Many of his artworks have been used in our annual volume over the years to illustrate a particular subject or event. Every time he was asked, the answer was simply “Yes.” We have held at least two meetings centred on Pete’s work. I recall the jam-packed community centre at Bloomingdale a few years ago. Stephanie Walker, Sam Steiner and I sat on a panel quizzing Pete about his work, his

relationship with his mainly-Mennonite subjects, and many other, sometimes probing, questions.

I also recall a 2011 meeting in Hawkesville when Peter and Elmira native Nan Forler took the stage to talk about working together on a charming book titled *Winterberries and Apple Blossoms: Reflections and Flavors of a Mennonite Year*. Unless my memory betrays me, I think Pete almost refused to talk, wanting to keep the spotlight on Nan’s delightful poem-stories.

I cannot recall when I first met Peter but I know for sure when we first did a bit of work together. It was 1994 and the Victoria Park Historical Committee was preparing a book to celebrate the park’s centennial in 1996. Kathryn Lamb, who many of you can recall, was the head of the book committee and she recommended approaching Peter to do the cover of the book showing people skating. I believe Kathryn did the introductions, and the first thing Peter did was ask to see all the photographs we had of people skating on Victoria Park lake – just as he had skated on that lake as a youngster. Well, dozens of photos later he had sketched out his composition. I thought it was great and that we were done. Nope. He wanted to go over every building, every structure, every tree, every person, to ensure historical accuracy.



One thing I recall particularly. He had included the center flagpole in the painting and on the boathouse had drawn a clock. Quizzing me about when the flagpole was installed and when the clock went in, we discovered that the two did not co-exist in the era he wanted the painting to show. So, out came the flagpole. It was fussiness about little things like that, that gave me early respect for how carefully Peter planned his painting projects.

*Colleagues, friends and family spoke about Peter. They included: Lisa Talbot, KidsAbility Foundation; Adele Hempel, Waterloo Region Museum; Susan Burke, formerly Schneider Haus; Doug Letson, Walter Bean Trail; and Paul Tiessen, Wilfrid Laurier University. Happily, a video was made of the meeting and Peter was able to watch the tribute a week or so later.*

## Remembering Mary Johnston

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By Warren Stauch

Mary Johnston was an exceptional, well-respected teacher in the Waterloo Region, a mentor and role model to many students and teachers. Throughout her 37-year teaching career, Mary was happiest when she was interacting with people, be it students, parents or colleagues. As school principal, Mary was often seen roaming the halls, visiting classrooms and chatting with students, most of whom she knew by name.

Mary was a leader outside of the local classrooms as well. She was active on Ministry of Education committees, the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario, and the Waterloo County Women Teachers' Association.

She was passionate about local history and taught a generation of students the importance of understanding and appreciating local history. In 1975, she published *The Trail of the Slate, a History of Early Education in Waterloo County, 1802-1912*.



*On one of the bus trips: Helen Koepke, the step-on tour guide, Mary Johnston, Margaret Dickson. Photo courtesy of Harold Russell.*

Mary had a long-time interest in history, serving as an early member of the Waterloo LACAC (Municipal Heritage Committee). She became president of the Waterloo Historical Society in 1987, and it was her idea to develop and conduct historical bus tours with friends and colleagues, Marg Dickson and Helen Koepke.

Over the years, Mary chronicled many events through the lens of her ever-present camera and was always offering prints to those in the picture.

Mary was very personable. When she entered a room, everyone knew she was there! Her personal greeting to me on many occasions at Waterloo Historical Society events was, "Well, young man, how are you doing today?"

*Much has been written about Mary, before and after her death; one article could not tell everything! Before I joined the WHS, I didn't know Mary but I gradually came to know and appreciate her, especially her encouragement during my terms as WHS president. She was a "force" who will be remembered by everyone whose lives she touched. Our condolences to Mary's family and friends. Marion Roes, Ed.*

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## After the Rain – Homer Watson

By Faith Hieblinger, Curator, Homer Watson House & Gallery

As we celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we search for what makes a Canadian, Canadian. If we look to the words of Prime Minister Mackenzie King: "In this new world, great painters are fewer than in older countries, but it may be said of Homer Watson that he won for his native land, distinction and honour in recognised art circles throughout the world."<sup>1</sup> Watson's evocative depiction of the Canadian landscape are technically the result of his careful orchestration of colour, line and light while emotionally drawing from a deep well of life experience. Through this powerful combination he produced works of art that provoke emotion and thought from the viewer and speak honestly to the human condition, our environment and what it is to be Canadian.

Born 1855 into poverty in the small Village of Doon, Homer Watson begins his life in hardship. His mother struggles to keep a failing mill productive after losing her husband to typhus when Homer is barely six years old. With five young children for

his mother to care for, it isn't long before Homer leaves school to help his older brother Jude in the mill. At 10 and 12 years of age, the brothers work long days: Homer driving a horse harnessed to the movable frame of the wheel, while Jude hoists clay into the pug mill. The boys escape from their working day along the river's edge: fishing, exploring the woodland and imagining heroic adventures with the Southern Ontario landscape as their backdrop. Jude is the more serious and reflective brother, as he reads poetry and stories of mythical characters. Homer is spontaneous, drawing the scenes inspired by the stories, such as *Lancelot and Elaine* from Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*.



Death of Elaine, from Google images

One tragic day in 1867, life takes another turn for the worse. Jude, whose job requires a great deal of strength, rests his head against the centre beam of the mill to steady himself. As Jude dumps a load of clay, Homer's horse bolts, and Jude's head is caught between the beam and revolving frame, killing him instantly.

As Canada becomes an official country, a grieving Homer Watson comes of age. He finds solace in nature, and his passion for painting offers a reprieve from the harshness and challenges of life and death. Watson finishes several mythical paintings including *Isle of Man*, *Death of Elaine* and *Enoch Arden*. Watson spends long periods of time roaming the hills and valleys in search of inspiration. It is here that he develops an intimate relationship with nature and where he feels closest to the memory of his father and brother. Homer Watson renders careful studies of his surroundings, and with empathy, he captures woodland and meadow, stream and river, hill and sky interspersed with the occasional cottage or mill in romantic and dramatic compositions. Watson's respect for nature and his honest depiction of the elements create a spiritual element to these scenes. Homer recalls, "Of course I knew nothing about painting, and how I got through the job of making a picture...I do not know...any means to an end, and there was nothing of line, pattern or design in those days, merely the feeling of sentiment."<sup>2</sup>

Homer Watson dedicates his life to the brush and begins to seek out formal advice and counsel from educated and experienced artists. He visits Toronto and New York State from 1875-77 and sees canvases by members of the Hudson River School of Art. He joins artists sketching in the Adirondack Mountains and along the Susquehanna, Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. He learns the science of colour, line and light. Watson recalls, "I got so impatient to rush back home and use all this knowledge, that I could not stay in the city any longer. So home I went and commenced to paint with faith, ignorance and delight."<sup>3</sup>

Over the course of Homer Watson's lifetime he becomes freer and more confident in his style, commanding simple line to convey unlimited, complex moods and light to create emotional tone. In Watson's words: "There is a restful shadow in the woods and the valleys were shrouded in gloom while the brightness of the roads and fields smote the eyes...I was sitting quietly with no sound to break the tread of my thoughtful musings on life which preoccupied my mind...on this day after the rain."<sup>4</sup>

Homer Watson masterfully orchestrates the elements of design into thought-provoking compositions that speak beyond the obvious subject matter of the Canadian landscape. He captures the moods of nature with a rare combination of honesty and romance, sensitivity and respect, encouraging us the viewer to imagine and reach beyond the shadows for enlightenment even in the face of darkness and storms. And perhaps this is what makes a Canadian, Canadian.

#### Notes:

1. King, Former Prime Minister Mackenzie. *Press Release*. June 1, 1936. Homer Watson fonds, Homer Watson House Foundation Archives.
2. VanEvery, Jane. *With Faith, Ignorance and Delight: Homer Watson*. Doon: Homer Watson Trust, 1967: p. 47.
3. Miller, Muriel. *Homer Watson: The Man of Doon*, revised edition, Toronto: Summerhill Press, 1988, (Watson to Lyle, 15 Feb. 1933): p. 34.
4. Miller, Muriel. *Homer Watson: The Man of Doon*, revised edition, Toronto: Summerhill Press, 1988, p. 66.



## WHS is Recruiting!

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Do you have experience with customer service and Microsoft Office? The nominating committee is looking to fill the position of **Membership Chair**. This position collects membership information and dues during public meetings and from the WHS mail received at the Central Branch of the Kitchener Public Library. The Membership Chair keeps track of membership status, coordinates the delivery of the annual volumes to members, answers questions about membership, and reports to the board. This is a director position with a two year term. A job description for Membership Chair will be provided.

WHS would like two **Councillors** for each township and city, and is recruiting for Cambridge, Waterloo, North Dumfries, Wilmot and Wellesley. A job description is at <http://www.whs.ca/board-and-council/>.

If you are interested in taking on one of these roles, the nominating committee would like to hear from you and will answer your questions. The first board and council meeting for these positions will be November 21, 2017. Contact the nominating committee at [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca) or speak to Lesley Webb or Debbie Kroetsch. Thank you for considering these requests!

## It's time to renew your WHS membership

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*If you received a renewal form with this newsletter, please fill it in, and mail it with your cheque to the address on the last page.*

**If you didn't receive a renewal form, you are paid for 2018.  
Waterloo Historical Society appreciates your support!**

**Thank you very much for renewing promptly!**

Contact [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca) if you have questions about your membership status

The WHS membership year is from October 1 to September 30. 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 Schneider Haus. Admission to McDougall Cottage is by donation. For a full list of membership benefits, visit <http://www.whs.ca/membership/>

## Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Award Nominations

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Each year the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation presents awards in five categories to recognize outstanding contributions to heritage preservation in the Waterloo Region. Awards are presented by the Heritage Advisory Committee at the Foundation's Annual General Meeting in June. See [www.wrhf.org](http://www.wrhf.org) for descriptions and consider nominating someone for one of these awards.

Nomination deadlines are the fourth Tuesday in March for all except the Heritage Research Award.

- Awards of Excellence
- Sally Thorsen Award of Excellence
- Dr. Jean Steckle Award
- The Region of Waterloo History Prize
- Heritage Research Award - Fourth Tuesday in January

Questions about awards may be directed to the WRHF Foundation Secretary: [wrhf@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:wrhf@regionofwaterloo.ca)

## Who We Are and How to Reach Us

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**Web Site** [www.whs.ca](http://www.whs.ca)  
**Email** [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca)

**Mail:** Waterloo Historical Society  
c/o Grace Schmidt Room, 85 Queen  
Street North, Kitchener ON N2H 2H1

**Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/waterloohs](http://www.facebook.com/waterloohs)

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### Board of Directors

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[jcglass@rogers.com](mailto:jcglass@rogers.com)

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[karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)

**Membership Chair:** Mandy Macfie  
[whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca)

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**Editor, Newsletter:** Marion Roes,  
[mlroes@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlroes@sympatico.ca), 519 883-1448

**Editor, Publication Cmte:** rych mills  
[rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net), 519 742-4990

**Plaques Cmte Chair:** Warren Stauch  
[mmegeo@golden.net](mailto:mmegeo@golden.net)

**Book Table:** Sherwood Hagey  
[eshagey@hallandales.com](mailto:eshagey@hallandales.com)

Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt  
Debbie Kroetsch  
Ray Ruddy  
David Emberly, 519 620-9402  
[emberly9@hotmail.com](mailto:emberly9@hotmail.com)  
Nancy Maitland: [wthhs.info@gmail.com](mailto:wthhs.info@gmail.com)

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### Archives

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

### Book Table

To donate or buy books, come to our meetings or see [www.whs.ca/booktable/](http://www.whs.ca/booktable/)

### Memberships

Contact [whs.whs.ca](http://whs.whs.ca) for membership information. Membership year is October 1 to September 30. Forms may be printed from the WHS web site. Thank you for supporting WHS with your membership!

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**Thank you for help with this newsletter to:** Mandy Macfie, Karen Ball-Pyatt, Faith Hieblinger, Warren Stauch, rych mills, Lesley Webb, Harold Russell, John Glass, and all who send requests, stories, photos, events etc.

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

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*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 Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, along with the townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich*



Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.  
Events, news, pictures etc. are posted almost daily.



*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.*

## Saddle of Remembrance

Photos and story by John C. Leistra

*John Leistra sent these photos to the WHS Facebook page as a message. His connection to Waterloo Region and the building of the saddle piqued my interest. John answered my questions and agreed to have the story in the newsletter. He can be contacted at [johncleistra@live.com](mailto:johncleistra@live.com) for more information about the project. Ed.*



This 1890 pattern 2 Canadian Cavalry saddle tree was a barn find near Mooretown and is being refinished and rebuilt as a Saddle of Remembrance for the First Hussars Cavalry Troop. The project is dedicated to the memories of those who died in the horror of war. This Saddle is being prepared for the November 11, 2017 Remembrance Day Parade in Sarnia. It will be on a horse that is led, not ridden, for he is the Lone Charger, a caparisoned horse representing all of those who lost their lives in combat. There is a lot of symbolism tied to the various pieces of equipment on the horse.

The First Hussars participated in the Boer War in South Africa, World Wars I and II. They sent many volunteers to the Afghanistan War (2001 to 2014). From 1981 to 1985, I served in the Regiment as an armoured crewman and attained the rank of Corporal. I have helped to conserve some of the artifacts of the First Hussars Museum in London that are used during static displays by the Cavalry Troop. As Quartermaster and Saddler of the First Hussars Cavalry Troop, I help with equipment procurement, construction and maintenance.

There is a tie to Waterloo Region. The work is being done by two descendants of Christian (1734-1810) and Maria (Scherch) Erb (1734-1814). I am one, and the other is Ivan B. Martin who is Old Order Mennonite. The connection with Ivan came about when I was searching for someone to rebuild some of the Troop's saddles. His was one of several Wallenstein-area harness shops I visited and he agreed to make the repairs and make new copies of WW I cavalry equipment. We have a mutual understanding that nothing he makes is intended for use in combat. Neither the Saddle or the First Hussars Cavalry Troop exists to glorify war – the First Hussars Cavalry Troop is a living extension of the First Hussars Museum.

I grew up in a Dutch Reformed community and at the age of 40 began the hunt for my heritage. One of the things that people in the Dutch-Canadian community like to do is find out how one person is related to another. We call it "Dutch Bingo." Knowing that there are many Pennsylvania Mennonite pioneers in my family tree, I decided to play Dutch Bingo with Ivan and his wife Mary. It turns out that Mary is a 5<sup>th</sup> cousin to me and Ivan is a 7<sup>th</sup> cousin. I am also a Gr- Gr- Gr- Grandson of John Negley Meyer [Waterloo Region Hall of Fame] and his wife, Mary Wenger who are buried at Martin's Meetinghouse Cemetery in Waterloo.

The Saddle is being constructed by Ivan and myself, and he has put a lot of passion into this project. With over 20 years of experience in making horse harnesses and repairing saddles, he is very creative and skilled.



*The tree refinished*



The leather strap with the heart shape is a breast collar. It attaches to the front of the saddle and to the girth strap. The new breast collar will have a First Hussars brass crest on it. The seat leather has been cut and is being shaped and I will soon be back in Ivan's shop when the seat will be stitched together and attached to the saddle tree. At the next work session Ivan will cut the components for the breast collar and bridle. Then I will hand stitch the seat components and install the seat onto the saddle tree.