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# Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

## MARCH 2019

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Marion Roes, Editor

### Public Meetings – All are welcome!

**Saturday, April 6, 1 pm**

Doors Open at 12

**Victoria Park Pavilion**

80 Schneider Ave., Kitchener

*Please bring indoor footwear to wear if wet weather*

Our presenter for this meeting will be Tarah Brookfield. Tarah is a graduate of McGill University (BA), University of Waterloo (MA), and York University (PhD). Since 2009, she has been a professor of history and youth and children's studies at Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus. Tarah's past and current research focuses on Canadian women's political activism, peace work, and child welfare efforts during the World Wars and Cold War. She is the author of *Cold War Comforts: Canadian Women, Child Safety, and Global Insecurity* (2012). She'll be presenting on research conducted for her second book, *Our Voices Must be Heard: Women and the Vote in Ontario* (2018) which examines the history of suffrage activism, anti-suffragists, and Ontario's first women voters, including some stories of women from what is now the Waterloo Region.

Tarah will have her books to sell at the meeting.

### Next meetings

**Victoria Park Pavilion: Tuesday, May 21** at 7:30 pm, doors open at 6:30

Volumes will be distributed free to current members at this meeting. Note: There won't be another newsletter before the May 21 meeting. Details will be on our web site, Facebook and Twitter. If you don't use the internet and would like information, contact Eric Uhlmann after May 13 at the phone number on the back page.

**Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum: History Under the Trees (HUT), Saturday, July 6** at 1:30 pm

**Victoria Park Pavilion: Tuesdays, October 1 & November 5**, at 7:30 pm, doors open at 6:30

*WHS meetings – except History Under the Trees – are free and open to everyone. At HUT, a discounted admission is charged.*

*Browse the Book Table. See our displays. Meet other WHSrs.*

*Meeting details will be on our web site, Facebook and Twitter*

### Memberships were due October 1

You can download and print a form at [www.whs.ca/membership](http://www.whs.ca/membership)

Annual volumes are free to current 2019 members

For additional member benefits, see [whs.ca/membership](http://whs.ca/membership)

*Thank you to all who have renewed for 2019,  
and for supporting WHS!*

## Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

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The next time you visit the Grace Schmidt Room, you'll notice a few changes! We have added some digital conversion equipment (VHS to digital conversion station, fast photograph scanner and small flatbed scanner) for customers. This equipment is in addition to the book scanner. All equipment is free to use!

Since my last report, the Society has received the following donation: Photographs and documents related to the life of William Fulton and Margaret Reichert of Elmira and St. Jacobs, dated from 1870 to 1942.

It's official! I am pleased to announce that the 7th Kitchener Public Library **Genealogy Fair** will be held on **Saturday 2 November 2019**. Join us for a great day of speakers, vendors and exhibits at the Central Library, 85 Queen Street North, Kitchener. Mark your calendars! I'll be posting more details in the coming weeks, and the Fair program will be posted in early September. Waterloo Historical Society plans to have a display and book table at the Fair.

Cheers,  
Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS Archivist  
Email [karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)  
Tel: 519-743-0271, ext. 252

*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*

## News and Notes from the Board of Directors

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### Mary Lapp, Secretary

*Mary has taken over as secretary from John Glass, who is now president.*

Moving to Kitchener last year was in essence a "homecoming" as my family roots run solidly within St. Jacobs and Kitchener. While raising three daughters in Box Grove, Ontario (Markham), I was an Outdoor Educator and Dairy Educator, Primary and Jr. (Dairy Farmers of Ontario). I have enjoyed volunteering in various roles within several organizations such as: Markham Fair, York 4-H, Girl Guides of Canada, Toronto Police Services Auxiliary and PanAm / ParaPan Games 2015. Having long followed and admired the Waterloo Historical Society from afar, I am delighted to begin this exciting new opportunity.

### Janice Harper, Waterloo Councilor

I have lived in Uptown Waterloo for thirty years and I am very keen on studying local history and sharing my work with other interested people. I was a secondary school teacher for 36 years. There, I taught for nine years in ELAWS, an alternative program for conservative Mennonite teenagers. None of these students would have attended any secondary schooling if not for this alternative program which combines one or two days a week of formal education with three or four days a week of co-operative education. I have been a presenter at WHS public meetings, including History Under the Trees, and a contributor to the annual volume. In 2018 I completed my MA in History.

### Eric Uhlmann, Programs Chair

Eric has been a member of the Programs Committee and has taken over the chair from Marion Roes.

## Donations and Membership Fees – Now Online

*Many of our members generously make a donation to WHS. WHS accepts cash at meetings, and cheques at meetings or mailed to the address on the back of the newsletter.*

### Online Donations

Donations can also be made online. WHS has registered with CanadaHelps at [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org). In Memoriam donations may be made through participating funeral homes' websites at [mytributegift.org](http://mytributegift.org). These organizations charge a small fee to WHS, and will email an instant charitable donation receipt to the donor. Please type the purpose of the donation in the Comments box.

Donations can also be made via Interac e-Transfer. Within Interac e-Transfer, send your donation to [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca). Then send an email to the WHS treasurer at [jeff420shank@gmail.com](mailto:jeff420shank@gmail.com) and give (1) your security question and answer, (2) your mailing address for the charitable donation receipt, and (3) the purpose of the donation. The donor may be charged a small fee by their bank.

### Membership Fees

Membership fees can be paid by cash, cheque or Interac e-Transfer. Please complete a membership form. Within Interac e-Transfer, send the payment to [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca). Then email the security question and answer and a scanned membership form to the treasurer at [jeff420shank@gmail.com](mailto:jeff420shank@gmail.com). Or mail the form c/o Treasurer at the WHS address on the back page.

If combining membership fees and donations via Interac e-Transfer please also fill out the donation section of the membership form.

If you have questions, please contact the treasurer, Jeff Shank.

## Requests for Articles for the WHS Annual Volume

It's not too early! The publication committee urges members – and others – to get an early start on researching and writing an article for the 2019 annual volume, to be released in Spring 2020. Whether it's a favorite historical topic, a family memoir; if your church or school or business is celebrating a significant anniversary ...whatever! If it's about Waterloo County / Region history and you have started writing – or will – let the committee know. Its members have a wealth of experience and will help you. See guidelines at [www.whs.ca/authors/](http://www.whs.ca/authors/) then contact the committee at [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca).

**2018 Annual General Meeting Reports** are on the WHS web site. [www.whs.ca](http://www.whs.ca). If you don't have access to the internet and would like a paper copy, please call Marion Roes 519 883-1448 and it will be mailed to you.

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## Requests to / from Readers

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**McDougall Cottage** has beautiful hand-painted friezes and trompe l'oeil ceilings that were painted around 1906 by Jack Baird who was a brother of our second owners. Because of these paintings we are looking at documenting interior paintings in the Region, partly to see if Jack Baird has any other unknown interior work and also to learn about other artists and their work. If you know of any houses / buildings that have or had interior paintings please let us know at [mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca).

## Kudos, Congratulations and Thank You

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- **Dr. John Carter, South Bruce Peninsula Volunteer Award 2018**

Long-time WHS member, Dr. John Carter was acknowledged for his dedicated service as a member and the chair of the local Municipal Heritage Committee. John also had a seven-article series commemorating the 180th anniversary of events associated with the 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion, published in the *Brockville Recorder & Times*, during July and November. In addition, he contributed to and was the guest editor of a rebellion themed special issue of the *Australasian Canadian Studies Journal*. For information about acquiring a copy, please contact Dr. Robyn Morris at: [robynm@uow.edu.au](mailto:robynm@uow.edu.au).

- **Warren Stauch – Ontario Museum Association Volunteer Service Award of Excellence**

Warren Stauch is a past president of WHS and current member of the Board of Directors. Serving for more than 50 years as a volunteer with Region of Waterloo Museums, Warren Stauch's boundless dedication to preserving local heritage has had lasting, widespread impact. Warren's contributions to his local Waterloo Region community have been invaluable, extending throughout his life. In the 1970s Warren served as President of the Board of the Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation, which administered Doon Pioneer Village (now known as Doon Heritage Village), and spearheaded changes to the village and studies for the future of the site. Simultaneously, he was also involved in the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation and the restoration of Schneider Haus National Historic Site. Warren has been involved with both sites as a very active volunteer. Warren's exemplary contributions of support and leadership are deserving of much praise and recognition, demonstrating the important impact volunteers have in heritage institutions across the province.

- **Bell Canada Employee Giving Program**

Thank you for the \$250 donation to WHS via Marion Roes, Bell retiree. This is the 10th donation Bell has made to WHS.

## History Under The Trees – “These Old Things”

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WHS members Marlene and Murray Miles brought this item to be identified



Photos by Murray Miles



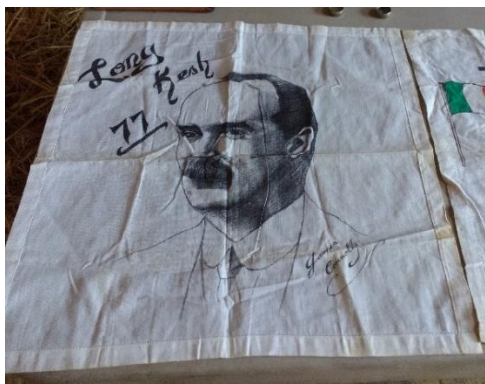


Marlene wrote that: The item is German and was passed on to me many years ago from the paternal side of my family. My father was Hugo Beilstein whose paternal ancestors came to this area from Germany around 1840 and farmed in the area known as Waldau (Highland St. W., Kitchener). His mother was a Stumpf whose family came from Germany just before 1900 and settled in Elmira. It is my Stumpf-Beilstein grandmother that told me the item was a back scratcher. But, is it? It is. It wasn't confirmed at History Under the Tree but in an October issue of his column "This Old Thing" in *The Record*, John Sewell did indeed identify it as a "scratcher."

## Prison Art by Ray Ruddy Jr.

Ray is a member of the WHS Board of Directors. He brought these items to History Under the Trees and wrote about them for the newsletter.

About 20 years ago my father Henry Raymond Ruddy gave me a 100-year-old leather doctor's bag full of his more prized possessions: things I remember as a young boy of eight or nine, and more recent items he brought from Northern Ireland in 1977. The items from Northern Ireland were things I had never seen before. How did my father acquire these small treasures? It all started in May of 1975 when our family moved to Northern Ireland. My father's dream was to open a pub and raise his family in or close to his childhood home on the family farm at 12 Bushfield Road. It was the same home where my dad and my grandmother were born. This would be our home for the next two years – on a small winding road leading to the main highway, called the Lisburn road, between Moira and Lisburn.



time. Today it no longer exists. It was "home" to all the paramilitary groups including the IRA and the Ulster Defense Army (UDA). My father applied and after three months of extensive training in Belfast, where he learned a bit of karate and studied how to be a prison guard, he graduated. His first post was as guard in a tower at the Maze. He hated that job. It was extremely boring and hard to stay awake at night. After a year, he applied to be on the search team, a small group of prison guards that had total control of the prison during a lock-down when nobody moved in the prison including the other guards. The search team, or the Sweeney Team, as they were referred to, looked for weapons,

At that time, Northern Ireland was experiencing some of its most challenging times. \*The "troubles," as we called these horrible times, lasted the two years I lived there and for another half-dozen or more after we came back to Ontario. I remember the day we all hopped in the van and my Uncle Allen took us to look at the pub my parents wanted to buy. There it was, a big white building, a parking lot full of cars, and people coming and going. I thought to

myself: "I hope they buy this pub." I do not remember much more of that pub. On the way home Uncle Allen told my parents that they were taking a big chance on buying that place because of the chance of a bombing and of high insurance rates! It was a well-known drinking place for the local British soldiers stationed nearby and he thought it would be targeted by the Irish Republican Army (IRA). My parents looked into the insurance and decided it wasn't worth the price. A few weeks later that pub was bombed by the IRA.

So, what's a man to do now with no prospect of an income? My father was told there was an opening for a prison guard at the Maze Prison, known by the locals as Long Kesh Prison. It was the biggest prison in Great Britain at the



booze, and other contraband – and of course they found lots of illegal objects. All of it was all to be turned in and destroyed, or used as evidence for charges against the inmates. My father kept a few of those lesser contraband objects as memories of his times there. I can only speculate that he thought they were important parts of the prison history. They included four hankies with political sayings and symbols of the "troubles," some handmade rings fashioned from coins; one with "Seamus" etched around the band; also, a leather wallet with the words "Long Kesh" cleverly engraved on the front. I call these items "prison art" and I thought that bringing them to History Under the Trees would be a unique experience for people, to see and enjoy them as I did the first time I saw them.

I feel it is important to say why we came back to Ontario. One evening my father was going to use the outhouse and our little Jack Russell dog Tiny rushed past him as she usually did, out the back door. She would stop and listen for rats running on the gravel and then give chase. This time there were no rats. A man planting a bomb at the side of the house made a noise on the gravel as he took off and Tiny chased him! The next morning my father checked his bike at the side of the house and found wires that were used for bomb-making near his bike. That wasn't the first attempt to kill my father but it was the final straw. The IRA knew where we lived so we came back to Ontario.

\*The Northern Ireland conflict was a thirty-year (late 1960s to late 1990s) bout of political violence, low intensity armed conflict and political deadlock within the six north-eastern counties of Ireland that formed part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

## 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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### Board of Directors

**President:** John Glass  
[jcglass@rogers.com](mailto:jcglass@rogers.com)

**Past President:** Lesley Webb  
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**Treasurer:** Jeff Shank  
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**Secretary:** Mary Lapp  
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**Archivist:** Karen Ball-Pyatt  
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**Membership Chair**  
 Erin Applebee

**Editor, Newsletter:** Marion Roes,  
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**Programs Chair**  
 Eric Uhlmann 519 577-5773

**Directors**  
 Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt  
 Maddie Dale  
 Debbie Kroetsch  
 Ray Ruddy  
 David Emberly: Waterloo Regional  
 Heritage Foundation representative

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**Councilors**  
 Cambridge: Joleen Taylor, Glenn Thorpe  
 Kitchener: Harold Russell, Sandra Parks

Waterloo: Jane Britton, Janice Harper  
 North Dumfries Township: David Pyper  
 Wellesley Township: Nancy Maitland  
 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 see [www.whs.ca/booktable/](http://www.whs.ca/booktable/)*

### Membership

*See [whs.whs.ca/memberships](http://whs.whs.ca/memberships) for a form to print, information and benefits. Membership year is Oct 1 to Sept 30.*

**2019 memberships are due**

***Thank you for supporting WHS with your memberships and donations!***

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*Newsletter comments, questions and submissions 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.*

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# Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

## JUNE 2019

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Marion Roes, Editor

### Public Meetings – All are welcome!

#### History Under the Trees (HUT)

**Saturday, July 6 at 1 p.m.**

Book table and displays will be set up at 12 noon

Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum

Doon Heritage Village

10 Huron Road, Kitchener

This summer's History Under the Trees will be an outdoor, interactive meeting with the theme of vintage tools – the implements that built much of Waterloo County in the 19th century. New Dundee collector and tool expert Al Junker will share some of his vast collection of historic tools, and explain their uses. There will also be a special demonstration by Doon Heritage Village staff in one of the village workshops.

Attendees are invited to bring along any small or medium-size vintage tool that may have come down through their family. Bring them for identification or to share family stories about them. Anything sharp or pointed must be properly encased and protected.

The presentation begins at 1 p.m. but come early and enjoy the Waterloo Region Museum / Doon Heritage Village complex. To receive a discounted admission, mention to staff at the entrance that you are attending History Under the Trees. We will be out-of-doors unless weather interferes, in which case a century-old barn will be the site. Bring a lawn chair if possible. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. For more information, contact WHS via [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net)

#### Travel and Tavern-Going in Early 19th-Century Upper Canada

**Tuesday, October 1, 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

Victoria Park Pavilion

80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener

Jesse Abbott will be our speaker. In the early 1800s, travel across Upper Canada was becoming increasingly popular, particularly by stage coach. The numerous accounts of travel and recommendations for travelers which were published in this era attest to this. Many of these accounts mention travel through what would later come to be known as the Waterloo Region. Taverns, inns and public houses were established every six to eight miles along country roads to accommodate these travelers. Gaukel's Hotel in Berlin was a prominent example, built in 1835. Public houses like Gaukel's were usually open 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide lodging, food, and drink for weary travelers. Jesse's research focuses on that final item, drink. This presentation will explore the alcohol consumption of travelers and settlers in the many taverns which dotted the Upper Canadian landscape. He argues that in this period, (just as today) what alcohol you drank, how you drank it, with whom, in what quantity, and how you handled its intoxicating effects, all said something about you in colonial society. In other words, alcohol consumption informed the construction of masculine, racial, and class identities both on the road, and in public spaces.

#### **November 5 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

Annual General Meeting

Speaker and topic will be announced in the next newsletter, on Facebook, Twitter and our web site. For information about meetings, contact Programs Committee Chair, Eric Uhlmann at 519 577-5773.

Victoria Park Pavilion

80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener

## Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

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We're gearing up for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual KPL Genealogy Fair on Saturday 2 November 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and hope that you will join us at the Central Library for this free day of genealogy fun, learning and sharing.

Need to scan a stack of photos to share with your family? Thinking about digitizing your aging collection of VHS family movies? Or, wanting to print a copy of a lovely digital photo to frame for your mantle? We've got you covered in the GSR. See <http://www.kpl.org/scanning> for more details.

New to Ancestry and FindMyPast genealogy databases? Come join me for tips and tricks on the following dates / times: Find My Past 101 – Wednesday August 14, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m., Central Library; and Ancestry 101 – Wednesday August 21, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m., Central Library. Registration required. Register online through the KPL event calendar at <http://kplca.evanced.info/signup/Calendar> or by calling InfoLink 519-743-7502.

Join me and Marion Roes on Wednesday, 19 June 2019 at 7 p.m. for a GSR Book Launch for Marion's book, *Mennonite Funeral and Burial Traditions: Interviews and Personal Stories... from Waterloo Region, Oxford, Perth and Wellington Counties*.

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

- Wilhelm Family Reunion Collection - consisting of family reunion photos; minutes 1927-2013; notes 1993-1995, 1999; a family tree; assorted newspaper clippings; and attendee lists 1986-2012;
- 11 black and white photographs of Alfred and Marion Dreisinger Armbrust and a copy of the 50th wedding anniversary newspaper clipping for the couple, a 1920 C. Dreisinger & Son invoice from C.H. Hartshorn of Kitchener, and 2 school opening programs (John Mahood Public School, 20 Nov 1954; and Riverside Public School, 29 Oct 1962) from the Elmira and No. 4 Woolwich Union School Board;
- 51 Contact prints for the Jacob Gaukel Stroh Negative Collection;
- "Shirk Family Reunion, Bridgeport, July 2, 1934" panoramic photograph by Denton Photo, Kitchener;
- Patricia Mary Koehler Atwater Collection of personal documents, photographs, cards, and assorted invoices and paper ephemera;
- 1808 Lot 2 Eby Memorial (digital and print copies);
- Framed panoramic photograph of the Schatz Coal Company employees and vehicles, 14 Esson St., Kitchener, taken by Ernest Denton Photo, July 1940;
- 1 photograph of the Berlin Base Ball Club, Champions, Waterloo County, 1897,
- 1 class portrait of S.S. 2 Derby, 1929, by Ernest Denton; and
- 1 panoramic photograph of students and teachers of Parkhill High School, with identifications, dated 20 Oct 1950, taken by Denton Photo, Kitchener.

Cheers,  
Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS Archivist  
Email [karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)  
Tel: 519-743-0271, ext. 252

*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*

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## Condolences

On behalf of our members, WHS offers condolences to the family of Kimberley Miles, including her uncle, Patrick Murphy. Kim died on April 14. She had been a WHS member since 2012.



## 1860 Celebration of the Queen's Birthday as told in 2019

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*By rych mills at Victoria Park, Monday, May 20, 2019*

In previous years I have used old newspaper clippings to try to give people a bit of an idea of just how Victoria Day – aka The Queen's Birthday – was celebrated. Darryl Bonk sent me a delightful advertisement from the *Berlin Telegraph* of May 18, 1860 outlining the following week's holiday programme. Let us return now to thrilling times in 1860 Berlin, Canada West and share the village with some 2,400 residents. Imagine this. On the evening of Wednesday May 23, knowing the next day was a holiday, you popped in at *James Potter's Great Western Hotel* at the corner of King and Queen. It is a two-storey establishment that Potter had bought from the estate of Frederick Gaukel. The Great Western had the village's best lager so you quaffed a couple, then headed home.

Now it is 5:59 a.m. on May 24. You are not yet awake, until ... until ... the day's events begin with the local militia artillery company firing off a Royal Salute at 6 a.m.! Remember, *everywhere* in Berlin is within a seven-block area. Startled, you sit up. Soon music begins – because right after that cannonaded Royal Salute, the Berlin Brass Band (amateurs all) begins a parade along King Street with trumpets, cornets, tubas, and trombones, all somewhat playing the same tune. You arise, still a tad lagered, knowing that next, at 10 a.m., comes the Berlin Fire Brigade's demonstrations. The entire company joins in a parade throughout the principle streets of the town – there are only a couple dozen streets at the time. At 11 a.m. you and a 1000 other Berliners gather at the Bowman Block water storage tank for a demonstration of the brigade's newest fire engine. Now, don't go thinking modern fire engine – this one is a *man-pulled* or *horse-pulled* contrivance with large-handled levers on either side. Burley men pump them up and down to draw water from Bowman's tank and shoot it upwards, maybe 20 feet – 25 if they're feeling hearty. It's just enough to reach the second floor of buildings.

That excitement lasts less than an hour because at 12 noon the artillery company is at it again with another Royal Salute. Undoubtedly several windows throughout the village shatter! At Court House square on Weber Street, the entire local militia gathers for drilling, marching and demonstrations. Time out for a quick lunch then everyone heads for the Race Course on Henry Fletcher Joseph Jackson's property in the King / Water / Frances block. Fletcher was artist AY Jackson's grandfather and a prominent leader in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Berlin. For events at the Race Course, the program gets specific – and pretty exciting! It lists the amount of prize money up for grabs, varying from \$1 all the way to \$2. You join the crowd in surrounding the track, and as the anticipation mounts, all of Berlin cheers as the participants begin. First, the *Standing Jump* competition, followed by the *Running Jump*. Then the *Standing Hop*, Step and Jump, followed by... yes – the *Running Hop*, Step and Jump. Cheers erupt with the beginning of the Blindfolded Wheelbarrow Race and the Sack Race.

Wait! The climax is yet to come. But not until men's, then boys', then girls' foot races occur. Sorry ladies, none listed. The grand prize of a Silver Watch with complete works and case goes to the winner of the Climbing Greased Pole contest. While all this is taking place the Berlin Brass Band continues playing selections from its small repertoire.

You might think this is enough excitement for one day... but *you* would be incorrect. Clear the race course and move back a bit ... because the horses are next: the Trotting Purse is \$5 and the Running Purse is \$7. All horses in the county were invited to participate ... one assumes along with their owners.

It is still light and there is more to come. After a break for supper, people are invited to the Turnerverin Hall above one of the newer hotels on King West near Young. There, "A Grand Entertainment" is on the cards. With darkness at 9 p.m. following this entertainment comes "A Magnificent Display of Fireworks" at Court House Square.

Tired yet? Summon up strength because everyone is invited to a Torchlight Procession through the village. The entire advertisement is signed off with *God Save The Queen*. And that is also the final number for the tireless but by now very tired Berlin Brass Band. From 6 a.m. until at least midnight the band's been everywhere. As have you!

I fear our 21<sup>st</sup> century festivity in a city of 250,000 pales in comparison with the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century celebration in a village one-one-hundredth the size. I'll bet, however, that even for many Berliners of that era, it was a bit much.

Just 18 years later things have been toned down a bit. Similar Queen's Birthday holiday announcements in the May 23, **1878** *Berlin Daily News* begin with a boldly printed **NOTICE** from Chief Constable John Klippert, "*Preventing the Shooting and Burning of Fire Crackers on the Streets and in the Vicinity of Buildings.*" Well, that takes away a bit of the fun. The program

for the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 1878 is also a bit more subdued: The band assembles at 9 a.m. (no mention of artillery fire). Then everyone will parade to the train station at 10:30 to meet people coming on special trains from Guelph and Stratford. At 11 a.m. the band and large procession join with the visiting Preston band. Following noon-hour dinner, the Berlin and Preston bands lead celebrants to Town Park. Note: this is *not* Victoria Park; that is still two decades away. It is Town Park over where the municipal swimming pool and soccer fields are now located. At the park, a mass concert begins, to be followed by outdoor Dancing (if wet, inside the agricultural building). For more sports-minded Berliners, an alternative attraction was scheduled: Haysville and Berlin are hooking up in a cricket match with wickets pitched at 10 a.m. In small print at the bottom the committee added: *Various other outdoor amusements will be provided.*

In the days of limited transportation available to the average citizen, with no media diversions, no telephones to arrange gatherings, no entertainment venues, this is what our great-greats did on The Queen's Birthday ... Victoria Day ... and I think it is fun to remember those times and, at least for me, sit in awe of how they celebrated all out.

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## News and Notes from the Board of Directors

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### From the Nominating Committee – John Glass, Lesley Webb, Debbie Kroetsch

WHS is looking for a Vice President to fill a currently vacant spot. If you are a current board member or councilor who is interested in filling it, please speak with a committee member. Contact details are on the back page of the newsletter.

### From Membership Chair – Erin Applebee

Thank you to board members, councilors and other members who delivered volumes and saved WHS mailing costs!

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## Kudos, Congratulations and Thank You

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Volunteer Service Awards from the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport were presented to WHS volunteers in April. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to:

- Bertha Thompson, past president and councilor for Woolwich Township - 35 years  
The 35-year award has been reinstated. Previously, there were ones for 30, then 40 years.
- Joleen Taylor, councilor for Cambridge - 5 years
- Stephanie Walker, member of the Publication Committee - 15 years

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## Sonneck House

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*By Jon Fear*

*Jon is a WHS member and has previously written for the WHS newsletter. He was one of the writers for The Waterloo Region Record column, "Flash from the Past."*

One of downtown Kitchener's best known heritage homes has been repurposed as a hair salon and spa. Sonneck, at 108 Queen St. N., was for several decades the home of Louis Jacob Breithaupt, his wife, Emma, and their eight children. Its name means "sunny corner" in German. Sonneck Salon & Spa opened in November following major interior upgrades to the 145-year-old brick mansion, which is kitty-corner to the Centre in the Square at Queen Street and Margaret Avenue. Randy and

Ashlee Harms purchased the property in 2015. They live there and with some partners operate the salon and spa business. Improvements to the home's exterior and the grounds are planned.

The original structure at 108 Queen St. N. was designed by the Waterloo architect David Gingerich for Louis Jacob's father, Louis Breithaupt, and initially was rented to non-family members. It was one of many homes and business buildings Louis had constructed on lands he acquired for investment purposes throughout Berlin. Louis Jacob purchased 108 Queen for his own residence following his marriage to Emma Devitt on April 5, 1881. At 26, he had just become boss of the family tanning business following the death of his father the previous July. But he wasn't happy with the home's condition for some time.

"The house has been left in a most pitiable state — It took time and money to remedy this," Louis Jacob wrote in a November 1883 diary entry.

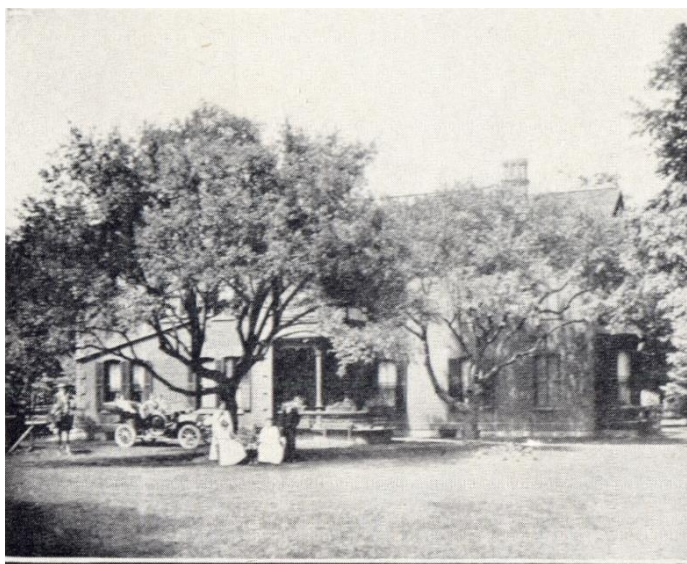
A few months later on May 31, 1884, he added: "Early this month I engaged Mr. F. Bueche to sod the grounds around our house which work is now nearing completion. Have also planted trees evergreens & otherwise improved the appearance of our home."

The home got another unfavourable mention on May 13, 1891: "Little Louis Orville has a terrible cold, and the little girls have it as well. The dampness of the house is to blame for this situation, a draft comes through the one ceiling we had been neglecting to replace. Mr. Braun soldered the new ceiling with appropriate centre pieces."

Sonneck Salon & Spa is not the first business to be based in the home. In the late 1960s, and well into the 1970s, the former Breithaupt home held a private art gallery operated by Helen Smith, who resided there with her husband, Jack, and their children. In the early 1980s a real estate listing for the property described it as a stately 18-room dwelling with six fireplaces, five baths and museum-quality stained glass and leaded windows. The "modernized" main-floor kitchen was described as having a spiral staircase leading to a bedroom and bath en suite. The spiral staircase has since been removed.

At one point a developer had plans to demolish the home and replace it with an 86-unit seniors' residence. But there was opposition and the City of Kitchener designated Sonneck a landmark under the Ontario Heritage Act, recognizing its historical and architectural significance.

Louis Jacob Breithaupt was mayor of Kitchener and president of the Breithaupt Leather Co., which operated its Eagle tannery on Adam Street. The firm also had a downtown office and a warehouse at Breithaupt and Weber streets, plus operations in Listowel, Hastings and Penetang. For local historians Louis Jacob Breithaupt is of great significance because of diaries he kept over several decades, making note of both business and personal events, sometimes writing in German, sometimes in English. The diaries form part of the Breithaupt Hewetson Clark collection in the Special Collections & Archives division of the Dana Porter Library at the University of Waterloo. The same collection holds the diaries of Louis Jacob's younger brother, William Henry Breithaupt, an engineer who was founding president of the Waterloo Historical Society in 1912. Another Breithaupt was WHS president in 1997-98. That was James (Jim) Roos Breithaupt (1934-2018), a grandson of Albert Breithaupt, another of Louis Jacob's younger brothers. Jim Breithaupt was the Liberal MPP for Kitchener riding from 1967 to 1985. One of Louis Jacob and Emma Breithaupt's sons was Louis Orville Breithaupt, who recovered from his terrible boyhood cold to serve a term as mayor of Kitchener and later become the lieutenant-governor of Ontario. One of the couple's daughters was Martha Edna Breithaupt, who gained prominence as a promoter of the arts. She was a friend of Group of Seven painter A.Y. Jackson, who periodically came to Kitchener in the early 1900s to visit his aunt, Geneva Jackson, who lived just doors away from Sonneck.



"Sonneck" Residence of L. J. Breithaupt, 108 Queen St. W.

1912 - *From Berlin Canada: A Self-Portrait of Kitchener, Ontario Before World War One*, Sand Hills Books, p. 94



*Sonneck House, Jon Fear 2019*

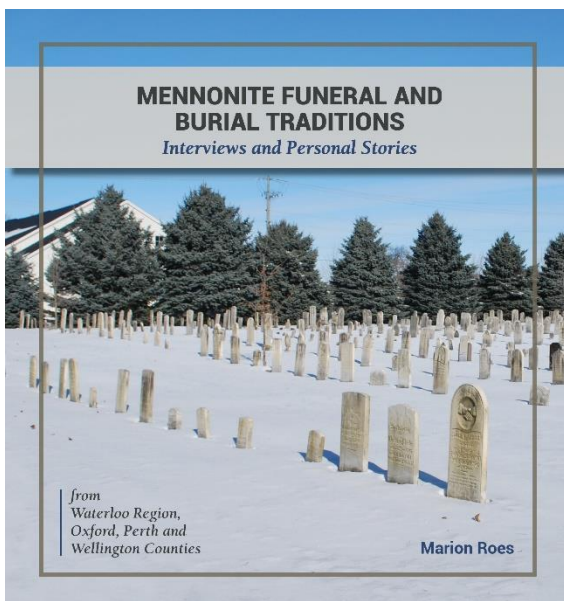
By that time Louis Jacob and Emma had long completed a major addition to their home, a project that was first mentioned in Louis Jacob's diary with an entry made for March 16, 1896. "We are making sketches . . . for a possible addition to our house which seems to be getting too small for our requirements," he wrote. An entry the following month confirmed that construction had begun. That summer, as the work continued, the family departed for a summer holiday in England, Scotland and parts of Europe. In September, back at home on Queen Street North, Breithaupt wrote: "We have decided to name our improved

home Sonneck in honour of 'Burg Sonneck' on the Rhine, partly because it seems to fit with the name of the old homestead Waldeck (his father's Berlin home) & further because it really is a bright 'sunny-corner.' "

After Emma Breithaupt's death on June 12, 1925, Louis Jacob continued to live at Sonneck with some of his adult children. In a diary entry for Sept. 20, 1929, he wrote: "The 'Painting red' of our home, 108 Queen St. N., is nearing completion & is an 'attraction' to our friends & neighbors." Louis Jacob Breithaupt died on March 6, 1939 at his winter home in St. Petersburg, Florida. Following his death, Sonneck was divided into apartments.

## New Book

*Mennonite Funeral and Burial Traditions: Interviews and Personal Stories.... from Waterloo Region, Oxford, Perth and Wellington Counties* by Marion Roes is for sale at Words Worth Books, Waterloo; The Mennonite Store, St. Jacobs; Waterloo Region Museum and Schneider Haus Gift Shops, Kitchener; Castle Kilbride, Baden and other locations. Contact Marion for other locations and if you would like it mailed, or come to the Grace Schmidt Room Book Launch, June 19, 7 p.m. at Central Library, Kitchener. [mlroes@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlroes@sympatico.ca) or 519 883-1448



There are many Mennonite groups in Waterloo Region, in Ontario, and elsewhere in Canada.

This book is about a few in Ontario. They are:

Old Order – *Waterloo Region*

David Martin / Independent Old Order – *Waterloo Region*

Markham-Waterloo – *Waterloo Region*

Amish – *Perth and Oxford Counties, Waterloo Region*

Old Order Amish – *Perth County and Waterloo Region*

Russian / From the Soviet Union – *Waterloo Region*

Old Colony – *Wellington County and Waterloo Region*





Harold Russell talked about his family treasure. Caroline Byfield and John Sewell are at the table. Behind Harold is rych mills.



Sherwood Hagey at the WHS Book Table with Kitchener councilor Sandy Parks



A mix of items, some known and some not.



Robert Falle

The top four photos are from History Under the Trees last year. Ray Ruddy's framed Promotional Brochure (left) is from his collection and was displayed at the Anubis Importing Café and Roastery in Preston.



To see the photos in colour, have a look at [www.whs.ca](http://www.whs.ca).



## Who We Are and How to Reach Us

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**Twitter** @WaterlooHS

**Instagram** waterloohistoricalsociety

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Eric Uhlmann 519 577-5773

### Directors

Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt  
Debbie Kroetsch  
Ray Ruddy  
David Emberly  
Glenn Thorpe

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Kitchener: Harold Russell, Sandra Parks  
Waterloo: Jane Britton, Janice Harper

North Dumfries Township: David Pyper  
Wellesley Township: Nancy Maitland  
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 see [www.whs.ca/booktable/](http://www.whs.ca/booktable/)

### Membership

See [whs.whs.ca/memberships](http://whs.whs.ca/memberships) for a form  
to print, information and benefits.  
Membership year is Oct 1 to Sept 30.

**Thank you for supporting WHS with  
your memberships and donations!**

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Newsletter comments, questions and  
submissions may be sent to the editor,  
Marion Roes.

Thank you for help with this issue to  
Karen Ball-Pyatt, Jon Fear, rych mills  
and Erin Applebee.

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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.*

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### Historical Preston – Saturday, July 13, 9:30 - 4

Anubis Coffee Shop, 710 King Street Preston/ Cambridge

Stop by to see and talk with Ray Ruddy who will have a Waterloo Historical Society display along with Preston photos, maps and artifacts from his extensive collection.

### Genealogy Fair, Central Library Kitchener, Saturday, November 2, from 9 – 3 Free

WHS will have a display and the Book Table for you to see and browse between speakers.

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# Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

## September / October 2019

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Marion Roes, Editor

### Public Meetings – All are welcome

Both are at the Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener

**Tuesday, October 1, 7:30 p.m.** Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
**“Travel and Tavern-Going in Early 19th-Century Upper Canada”**

Jesse Abbott, a PhD candidate at the University of Waterloo, will speak about his research on the drinking aspect of travel and tavern-going; exploring the alcohol consumption of travelers and settlers in the many taverns which dotted the Upper Canadian landscape. Jesse argues that in this period, (just as today) what alcohol you drank, how you drank it, with whom, and in what quantity, and how you handled its intoxicating effects, all said something about you in colonial society. In other words, alcohol consumption informed the construction of masculine, racial, and class identities both on the road and in public spaces. Gaukel’s Hotel in Berlin, a prominent example of a tavern, was built in 1835. Public houses like Gaukel’s were usually open 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide lodging, food, and drink for weary travelers.



*A road between Kingston & York. Library & Archives Canada online, MIKAN no. 2894469*

**Tuesday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m.** Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
**Annual General Meeting**

The speaker and topic will be announced on Facebook, Twitter and our web site. For information about meetings, contact Programs Committee Chair, Eric Uhlmann at 519 577-5773.

Everyone is invited to participate in the annual general meeting, conducted by president John Glass, 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.

### Memberships are due October 1

Please fill out and mail the enclosed renewal form and your cheque to the address on the form, or bring them to the October 1 meeting

Thank you for your prompt renewal and your support  
See [www.whs.ca](http://www.whs.ca) for Student Membership information

## Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

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Please join us on Wednesday 23 October 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Grace Schmidt Room for a book signing with Joanna Rickert-Hall, author of the book, "Waterloo You Never Knew: Life on the Margins." Register online or call 519-743-0271.

We'll be showing the film "Care for the Child: The Story of the Bridgeport General" in the Central Library Theatre on Monday 28 October 2019 at 7 p.m. Director Rob Ring will be joining us, and DVD copies of the movie will be for sale. Register online or call 519-743-0271.

We're getting ready for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual KPL Genealogy Fair on Saturday 2 November 2019! We hope that you will join us from 9 – 4 at the Central Library for this free day of genealogy fun, learning and sharing. Melanie McLennan will be our keynote speaker and she'll share with us how DNA helped her break through her Irish genealogy brick wall. We'll have speakers and workshops, vendors and exhibitors throughout the day. The day's program will be posted on the Fair website [www.kpl.org/genealogy-fair](http://www.kpl.org/genealogy-fair) in early October. No registration is required – just drop in!

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

- Digital scans of 17 real photo postcards depicting local area floods from 1900-1912.
- A collection of WHS annual volumes.
- A copy of the programme for the "Thanksgiving for Victory" celebration in Waterloo Park, held on Sunday 20 May 1945; a January 1987, v. 50, no. 5 newsletter of the Kitchener-Waterloo Sales and Ad Club newsletter titled, "Ribs and Tales"; an undated brochure titled "Optimal Solutions" from Epton Industries, Kitchener; and an undated booklet from the Waterloo County Board of Education, titled "Kindergarten is..."

Cheers,  
Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS Archivist  
Email [karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)  
Tel: 519-743-0271, ext. 252

*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*

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## Condolences

On behalf of our members, WHS offers condolences to the family of Jim Barrie. Jim died on August 20. He was a past president of WHS (as was his dad) and authored several articles on Galt and North Dumfries in WHS volumes. Our (incomplete) records show him as a member since 1964. When rych mills advised the board about Jim's passing, he wrote: "Jim was certainly one of my mentors in getting into local history back in early '80s."

## News and Notes from the Board of Directors

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### From the Nominating Committee – John Glass, Lesley Webb, Debbie Kroetsch

WHS is currently recruiting for two director positions: **Vice President and Book Table Co-ordinator**. If you are a current board member or councilor who is interested in filling either position you are encouraged to contact a committee member for the full job descriptions. Contact details are on the back page of the newsletter.

### About the Book Table – rych mills and Sherwood Hagey

Local and Ontario history books are always welcome at the WHS Book Table. If you are downsizing or if you are helping someone move and there are excess books, please consider donating them to the Book Table. At our public meetings a selection of books is displayed and for sale at low, low prices. Contact [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) or 519 742-4990 to make arrangements.

### From the Plaques Committee – Westmount Neighbourhood Plaque Unveiling

**Saturday, September 14, 2 p.m.**

**Location: Parkette at the intersection of Dunbar Rd, Rusholme Rd and Union Blvd**

**Refreshments and entertainment. Everyone is invited.**

For more than 90 years the Waterloo Historical Society (WHS) has been installing bronze plaques throughout the County / Region, telling the fascinating stories of our people and places. The newest plaque to join those ranks celebrates and commemorates the history of the Westmount neighbourhood and its unique position as Kitchener's "first Detached Private Residential District." It features the tale of local industrialist and entrepreneur Talmon Rieder, who envisioned winding streets, wide boulevards and a canopy of trees, all of which came to fruition.

The WHS has been working closely with the Westmount Neighbourhood Association. The City of Kitchener has approved a Neighbourhood Matching Grant for the project.

The WHS thanks the City of Kitchener, Your Neighbourhood Credit Union, and the Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation for their financial contribution, as well as the Westmount neighbourhood for their generous donations to this project.



Parking: carpool if possible. Dunbar Rd, Rusholme Rd, Avondale Ave & John St W (south side only) have some short-term on-street parking

#### Bus routes

From Kitchener City Hall Station, take #4 bus (direction Boardwalk Station) to Glasgow / Dunbar, walk 2 blocks north on Dunbar

From Waterloo Public Square Station, take #7 bus (direction Fairway Station) to King / Union, #4 bus (direction Boardwalk Station) to Glasgow / Dunbar, walk 2 blocks north on Dunbar

From Waterloo Public Square Station, #16 bus (direction Conestoga College) to Belmont / Union, walk 3 blocks west on Union

*Westmount neighbourhood developer Talmon Rieder. Photo courtesy of the Rieder and Anthes Family, 2010 accrual, University of Waterloo Library, Special Collections & Archives.*

## Kudos, Congratulations and Thank You

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From the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation's 2019 Annual General Meeting Report. Awards to WHS members:

### Lary Turner: Award of Excellence

Lary Turner has been a great advocate for the heritage of the Waterloo Region and has been with The Company of Neighbours / Hespeler Heritage Centre for many years as curator of roughly 10,000 artifacts.

**Karl Kessler and Sunshine Chen: Region of Waterloo History Prize** for their book, *Overtime: Portraits of a Vanishing Canada*.

## New Books

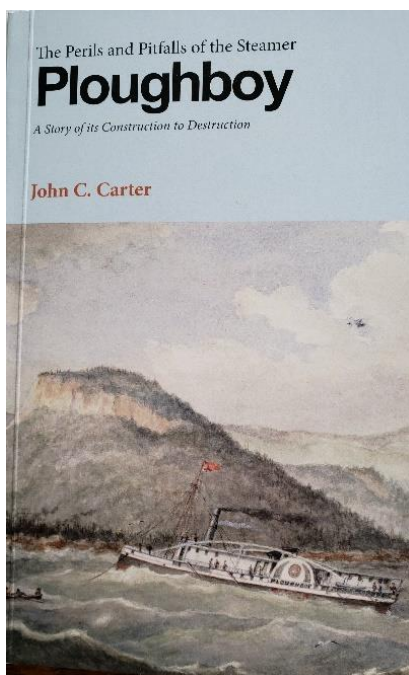
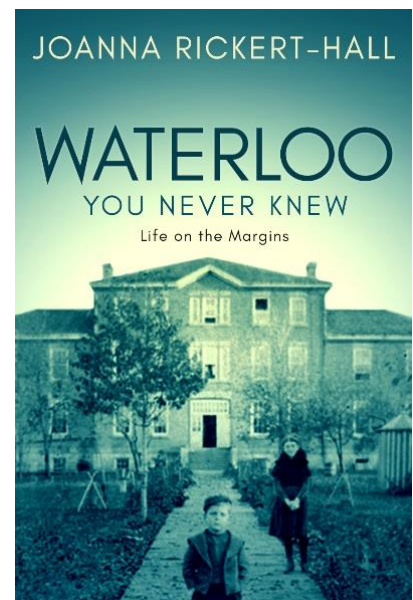
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Joanna Rickert-Hall, ***Waterloo You Never Knew: Life on the Margins***  
[www.dundurn.com](http://www.dundurn.com)

Available at Words Worth Books (support local businesses first!), Costco, Indigo (in store and online), Amazon, Schneider Haus and Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum Gift Shops and The Museum.

@redman4region on Twitter. Karen's pick: *Waterloo You Never Knew: Life on the Margins* reflects an authentic sense of place that roots the stories in Waterloo Region. It tells compelling stories of our community that should be heard. Give it a read!

See the next Ontario Historical Society *Bulletin* for Dr. Cynthia Comacchio's reviews of both Joanna's book and Marion Roes's ***Mennonite Funeral and Burial Traditions: Interviews and Personal Stories... from Waterloo Region, Oxford, Perth and Wellington Counties***.



The Essex Region Conservation Authority has published a new book by author and historian and WHS member Dr. John C. Carter. ***The Perils and Pitfalls of the Steamer Ploughboy: A Story of its Construction to Destruction*** details the exciting and intriguing history of one of the merchant ships belonging to John R. Park and his brothers through their 19<sup>th</sup>-century business, Park and Company Shipping.

Dr. Carter's connection to the Essex County region runs deep; he served as the Curator of the John R. Park Homestead early in his professional career. "Through his keen interest in the Parks, coupled with his continuous research and captivating writing, Carter has provided a fascinating case study of maritime shipping and trade on the Great Lakes in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century," says current Homestead Curator, Kristin Ives.

To purchase a copy, contact the John R. Park Homestead at [jrph@erca.org](mailto:jrph@erca.org) or 519-738-2029. Through the generosity of Dr. Carter, all proceeds from book sales benefit the John R. Park Homestead.

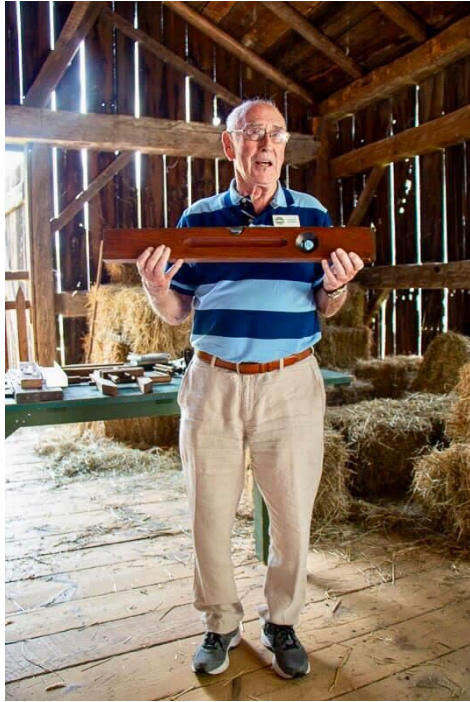


## 2019 History Under the Trees

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In the Shuh barn at Doon Heritage Village, Waterloo Region Museum

Some of the 35 - 40 attendees displayed home-made and old tools from their past. A few explained the special meaning these have. Al Junker went through the development of several tool types such as planers and ones for carving. He also gave insight into the world of antique tools collectors. Thank you to attendees, speakers, WHS volunteers and Museum staff who made possible this fun and educational afternoon. Photos courtesy of Harold Russell and John Glass.



*Harold Russell explained that most of his Schantz relatives were "on the level" (Most?)*



*New Dundee historian, Al Junker, was the featured speaker*



*Ken Lippert also told stories*

## 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)

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Street North, Kitchener ON N2H 2H1

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

**Twitter** @WaterlooHS

**Instagram** waterloohistoricalsociety

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Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt  
Debbie Kroetsch  
Ray Ruddy  
David Emberly  
Glenn Thorpe

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Waterloo: Jane Britton, Janice Harper  
North Dumfries Township: David Pyper  
Wellesley Township: Nancy Maitland

Wilmot Township: Patty Clarke  
Woolwich Township: Elinor Rau,  
Diane Strickler, Bertha Thompson

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### Membership

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*Thank you for supporting WHS with your memberships and donations.*

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### Newsletter

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*Thank you for help with this issue to Karen Ball-Pyatt, rych mills, Erin Applebee, John Glass, Harold Russell and Sandra Parks.*

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***One last reminder: please renew your WHS membership with the enclosed form***

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