
Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020



Marion Roes, Editor

Public Meetings – All are welcome

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

Tuesday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Note: if the weather is rainy or snowy, please bring dry footwear to wear.

“Would I do it again? Researching, Writing and Self-Publishing *Mennonite Funeral and Burial Traditions*” is the title of WHS’ past president Marion Roes’s presentation. She will tell how the topic of Mennonite funeral and burial traditions – which was going to be a section in her book about undertakers histories – became a separate book. Roes will relate her experience as a self-publisher, promoter and seller. A few of the traditions and related occupations described in the book will be included. Her book will be for sale at the meeting.



Seeing the printing process and uncut pages of the book was a highlight.

Tuesday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

“Lost Boys and Loose Ends: The Story of Four Jacobs” is the story of restoring two lost boys to the archival and historical record, exploring the parallel lives of their German immigrant fathers and the very different outcomes for two families in 19th-century Rochester, N.Y., Toronto, and Berlin, Ontario. Our speaker, Jane Britton is a WHS councilor for Waterloo and a retired archivist who spent most of her working career in Special Collections & Archives at the University of Waterloo Library. She is still an archivist, now working on the history of her own family.

The 2019 annual volume No. 107 will be distributed free to current members.

Mark your calendars for more WHS 2020 public meetings:

September 22 & November 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Victoria Park Pavilion

July 11, Saturday afternoon, History Under the Trees at the Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum / Doon Heritage Village

WHS and other heritage organizations will have displays at Wilmot Heritage Day, **Saturday, February 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, New Dundee Community Centre, 1028 Queen Street. The theme is Places of Worship in Wilmot Township. www.heritagewilmot.ca

Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

New Look and New Layout in the GSR

We've been busy in the GSR this past year – new look and layout, but same great resources! Our book collection has been rearranged to accommodate the new digital conversion equipment at the front of the room. Some items have been relocated to the MRARE closed stack area, but are always retrievable by staff. Be sure to check the KPL online catalogue to locate an item.

New Displays

Thinking of winter sports in Waterloo County? Then check out our newest display! The cabinet has been moved to the front of the room and now faces out to the main hallway so all can enjoy.

If shopping is your thing, take a peek at our large display cabinet by the office – we've got mementos of stores, shops and retailers of yesteryear.

History of Street Railways in Kitchener-Waterloo – Wednesday, February 26 at 7 p.m.

Join me for a look at the history of the street railways in Kitchener-Waterloo at Central Library. It's a free program, but registration is required. Call 519-743-0271 or register online at kpl.org Calendar of Events.

Donations

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

- A collection of items relating to Waterloo County, including assorted books; undated newspaper clipping about the Galt Junior Hockey Club; miscellaneous information about Syl Apps; photocopy of an Erb Street postcard; an undated Winterbourne school photograph;
- 9 photographs (copies of originals) of Emil "Pops" Kenesky and family of St. Jacobs;
- Funeral card, dated 7 Dec 1917, for William Pieper;
- Elmira Shirt & Overall Co., seasonal greetings promotional materials;
- 2 digital scans of employee group photographs taken late 1950s and 1969;
- Blueprints, documents, letters and photographs pertaining to W. H. Breithaupt (1857-1944). Materials relate to his family and business interests, including the Berlin and Northern Railway, dates 1912 and 1929.
- Russell Edwards Collection of books, booklets, photographs and framed artwork related to the history of Waterloo County and Galt;
- Digital scans of images of the West Montrose train station doors for sale at Artefacts in St. Jacobs; and
- 1839 Der Canada Morgenstern original newspapers.

Cheers,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS Archivist

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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.

Condolences

On behalf of our members, WHS offers condolences to:

- The family of **Elinor Rau**, a WHS member since 1984 and a councilor and / or board member since 1990. Elinor died on September 21, 2019. Valerie Hill wrote about her in *The Record's* Lifetimes at <https://www.therecord.com/living-story/9631729-lifetimes-conestogo-historian-leaves-a-legacy-of-ties-to-the-river-and-the-community/>
- The family of **Russell Edwards** who died on December 28, 2019. He had been a member since 1986.
- **Veronica Ross and Bob Green's** families. The couple died within a month of each other: Veronica on October 18, 2019 and Bob on September 14, 2019. Valerie Hill also wrote about Veronica at <https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9674192-lifetimes-author-veronica-ross-was-a-tireless-cheerleader-for-the-arts/>
- Bill Hall and his family for the death of his wife **Barb Hall** who died on September 30, 2019.

News and Notes from the Board of Directors

From the Treasurer – Jeff Shank

Reviewer of Financial Statements

For many years WHS' financial statements have been reviewed by BDO. After the 2019 year end review was complete, BDO notified the WHS treasurer that WHS has been receiving a discounted or subsidized fee, and that BDO will significantly increase the annual fees. The treasurer notified WHS members of this at the annual general meeting in November 2019 and suggested that for the time being BDO not be re-appointed for the current year so that alternatives could be investigated.

If any WHS member knows of someone with financial experience who could review WHS' financial statements for a reasonable fee, or for a nominal fee, or on a volunteer basis, please contact the treasurer, Jeff Shank, by email at jeff420shank@gmail.com. Thank-you.

About the Book Table – rych mills

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 or 519 742-4990 to make arrangements.

WHS volumes available for researchers

Are you thinking about researching? Are you already researching a building, people or places in Waterloo Region? Find them in WHS volumes. All volumes from 1913 to present are in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History (GSR) at Kitchener Central Library and several other libraries and archives in Waterloo Region. Volumes to 1995 are indexed for names and places on a card file in the GSR. To see the status of the Online Index – an ongoing project of WHS – and which volumes have been digitized, go to <http://www.whs.ca/online-index/> and <http://www.whs.ca/volume-search/>

Sara Karn – “Songs of War”

Sara Karn, who spoke at the Nov. 11, 2018 WHS Annual General Meeting about “Sounds of Victory in the Waterloo Region” announced: “After nearly four years of researching, writing, editing, presenting, and teaching about music, Canadian history and the First World War, I’m happy to share that my article “Songs of War: Anglo-Canadian Popular Songs on the Home Front, 1914-1918” has been published in *Canadian Military History*. It can be read and / or downloaded at <https://scholars.wlu.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1977&context=cmh>

Westmount Neighbourhood Plaque Unveiling – September 14, 2019

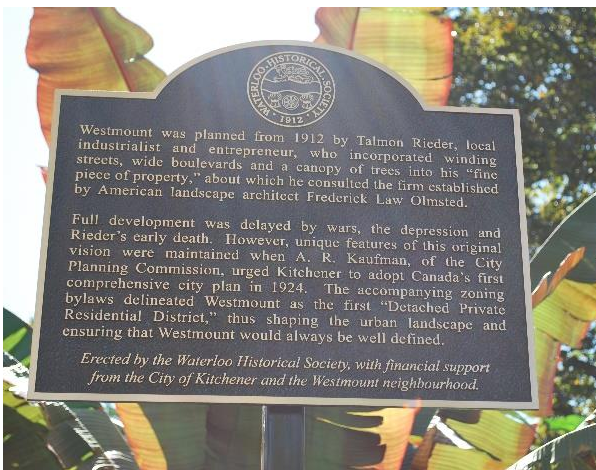


WHS members Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt, Debbie Kroetsch and Sherwood Hagey waiting for the unveiling.



City of Kitchener staff maintain this beautiful garden.

<https://www.waterloochronicle.ca/news-story/9597421-local-industrialist-created-vision-of-westmount/>



The plaque was erected at the parkette at Dunbar Road and Union Boulevard.



Sandra Parks, WHS Plaques Committee member, was the Master of Ceremonies.

Photos from Vintage Hamilton

A contact from Vintage Hamilton Facebook page occasionally sends scans of photos for the WHS archives that he has been given of Berlin and Kitchener. Here are a few that may elicit memories.



Information included with the picture. Found on Shorpy. "Photo of Frank Modrowski and fiancée Jen Reidel on a 1941 Plymouth Deluxe. The photo was taken in Kitchener, Ontario during the summer of 1941 while Frank was on leave with the Canadian Army. The photo was taken by a family member with a 35 mm camera. Frank tells me that the Plymouth was his father's, and the photo was taken in front of his parent's house. He also says that the Plymouth was a dark blue, and his uniform was a light tan – standard summer issue for a Canadian private. In the background is a one-pump Esso service station where gasoline was sold at 14 cents a gallon. The Coca-Cola sign displays the name of the service station owner, John Dziura."



Two views of Teddeman's Sunoco Station Kitchener, June 27, 1956. Photo by Superior Engravers, courtesy of Randy Watts to Vintage Hamilton.

Who We Are and How to Reach Us

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Archives

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

Book Table

To donate or buy books, come to our meetings or see www.whs.ca/booktable/

Membership

See www.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.

Newsletter

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

Thank you for help with this issue to Karen Ball-Pyatt, Mary Lapp, Erin Applebee, Jeff Shank

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.

For current and ongoing news, photos and events about WHS and other organizations have a look at our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages

*If you haven't renewed your WHS membership for 2020,
please do – to keep receiving the newsletter and the latest annual volume
<http://www.whs.ca/membership/>
Thank you.*

If your mailing label says 2019, we haven't received your renewal for 2020
