
Waterloo Historical Society

Newsletter

January 2023



Marion Roes, Editor

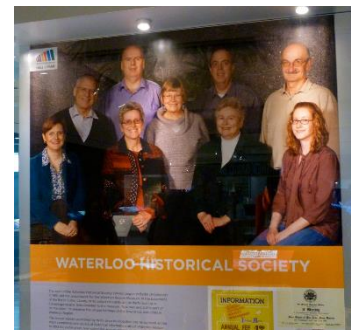
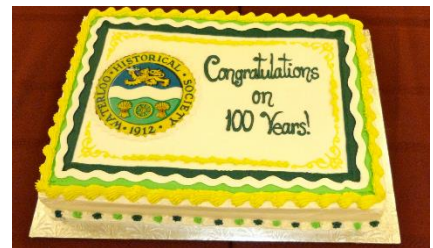
Annual General Meeting and Public Meetings

This is the space where meetings and speakers are usually announced, and we hope to have information soon about upcoming 2023 events. Changes in venues, still some uncertainty about in-person gatherings and possibly a hybrid setup are considerations we're working on. In the meantime, you can follow WHS on social media (links are on the back page) and contact us at whs@whs.ca with questions or comments. Details will be announced in the next newsletter or in an email to members.

Remembering our 100th anniversary 10 years ago in 2012



Past Presidents, L-R are, James Breithaupt (d.), Harold Russel, rych mills, Warren Stauch, Marion Roes, Ernie Ritz, Susan Hoffman, Mary Johnson (d.), Bertha Thompson. Photo is from the 100th celebration held at the Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum.



Hall of Fame Induction

Membership and Volume Patronage

Since the membership-fee free year during Covid, some members have not renewed. If you're not sure of your status, or have questions, please contact membership chair Erin Applebee at whs@whs.ca. Memberships for 2023 (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023) are now due. If you have renewed, thank you! If you haven't, a membership form can be printed from whs.ca/membership and mailed to the address on the form. A print form is included here for members receiving a print newsletter. Forms include levels of Annual Volume Patron amounts if you would like to support our publication. And, if you would like to change to receiving the newsletter as an electronic PDF via email, please indicate that on the form. Thank you for supporting WHS!

Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

It's been a very busy year in the Grace Schmidt Room as we have undertaken a number of new projects!

Thanks to the support of the Edna Staebler Legacy Fund at the Waterloo Region Community Foundation, we welcomed Rai to the GSR team as our 2SLGBTQ+ Project Archivist. Rai has been digitizing and arranging the 2SLGBTQ+ materials in the Ron Welker collection for inclusion on the History in the Making web site (<http://makinghistory.kpl.org>) where the collection will go live on January 18, 2023. We'll be celebrating with a **Presentation on 2SLGBTQ+ History in KW** at the Central Library the same day at 7pm. **Registration is required.** Register online or call 519-743-0271.

In January, we will welcome a Young Canada Works student, Julia, who will complete the uploading and cataloguing of the library's oral history tape collection.

Looking for assistance with digitizing photographs or VHS cassettes? Book an hour long appointment with Lauren or Bridget to learn the ins and outs of the digitization equipment! **Appointments are available Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 2 or 3pm, starting January 9, 2023 until the end of February.** Drop us a line at gsr@kpl.org or call 519-743-0721, ext. 212 to book your time.

If you have a local history or genealogy query, please reach out to us at 519-743-0271, ext 212 or email us at gsr@kpl.org

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday and new year!

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

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Some of the plaques erected by Waterloo Historical Society can be seen at whs.ca/plaques. The one shown here was installed in 2000 on Lexington Road in Waterloo to commemorate the Kitchener-Waterloo Municipal Airport.

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.

From WHS social media, newspapers etc.

Our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages have photos, news and events (our own and others) posted every few days on FB and less often on the others. Have a look occasionally to see what's been added, especially photos. Most of what is posted there is not in the newsletter. These are a few of the items.

Call for poems

The current artists-in-residence at the Brubacher House Museum are looking to translate, preserve and commemorate German-speaking Mennonite literary tradition. They will be collecting previously untranslated German language poems from now until February 2023 to be included in a bilingual collection of German Mennonite poetry from Waterloo Region. See <https://uwaterloo.ca/brubacher-house/news/open-call-poems> for details.

Doors Open Waterloo Region

Nine virtual episodes from 2022 are at <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/exploring-the-region/doors-open-waterloo-region.aspx>. ♦ River Monsters of Waterloo Region ♦ Death as Life's Work in Waterloo Region ♦ Beauty and Ruin in Waterloo Region ♦ Grace Schmidt Local History Room (sound familiar?) ♦ Crow Shield Lodge ♦ Willowcreek Typewriters ♦ Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery ♦ Historic Blair Sheave Tower ♦ Galt Arena Gardens. Plans for 2023 are for in-person visits. To receive updates and event information, see the link above.

Stroll Walking Tours

This outdoor activity is another way to learn about local history, and you might meet fellow WHS members as leaders or walkers. <https://strollwalkingtours.com/about-stroll-walking-tours/>

Ralph Shantz

Ralph is featured in the December issue of *Embracing Change* magazine. He and his late wife Dorothy have been long-time members of WHS and contributors to their community. Paper copies are available in Wilmot, Wellesley and Woolwich Townships. <https://embracingchange.ca/current-issue>

Water, Our Sacred Trust

Bob Burt has written a third book about our local environment. He has also researched and written an article about local history in WHS Volume 104 (2016): "Nathaniel Dodge, The First Non-Native Settler in Waterloo Township." This photo and article are by Leah Gerber.

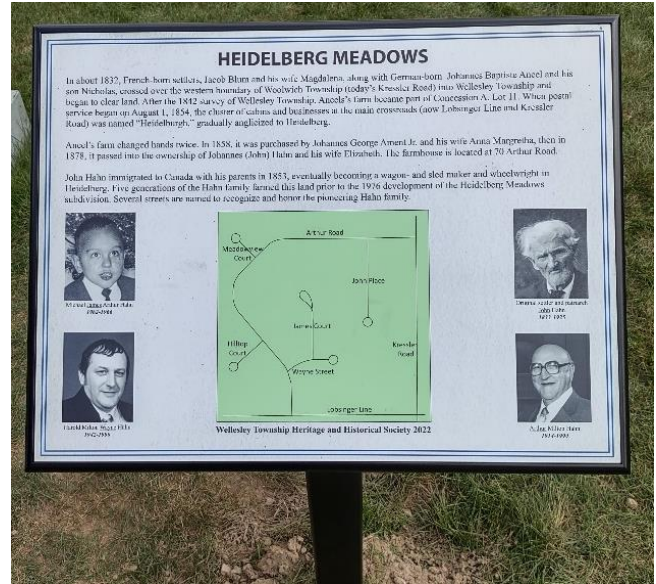
<https://observerextra.com/.../hes-made-a-career-of.../> More articles are at Google.



Heidelberg historical storyboard unveiled

On September 17, 2022, the Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society (WTHHS) unveiled a historical storyboard to honour members of the Hahn family after whom streets have been named in the Heidelberg Meadows subdivision. That history is taken from WHS member Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt's research of Heidelberg for WHS Volumes 107 (2019), 108 (2020) and 109 (2021). Pictured are L-R, Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt and WTHHS members Carol Gregory, Debbie Kroetsch, Andrew Jacobson, Chair. Debbie and Carol are also WHS members.

Read more at https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/press_release_-_historical_storyboard_in_heidelberg.pdf



This is one of three plaques that the WTHHS will be placing. See <https://observerxtra.com/2022/05/05/wellesley-approves-historical-plaques-for-three-sites/>

Part of the article reads:

"While Heidelberg and the surrounding area was originally the home of Neutral, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Indigenous peoples, European settlers began to arrive in about 1832. Around that time, Jacob Blum and his wife Magdalena, and Johann Baptista Ancel and his son Nicholas crossed over the western boundary of Woolwich Township (today's Kressler Road) into Wellesley Township and began to clear the land. When Wellesley Township was surveyed in 1842, Ancel's farm became part of Concession A Lot 11."

'The Truth wasn't told': why Ontario Heritage Trust is updating its historical plaques

The province's plaques once focused on such themes as nation building and settlement. Now, they tell a different story. See the article at <https://www.tvo.org/article/the-truth-wasnt-told-why-ontario-is-updating-its-historical-plaques>

Active History.ca

"ActiveHistory.ca is a website that connects the work of historians with the wider public and the importance of relating the past to current events. It developed from the conference 'Active History: History for the Future' at Glendon College in September 2008." A recent post and map on FB is at

<https://activehistory.ca/2022/11/raising-awareness-about-canadas-indian-day-schools-with-digital-history-and-gis-mapping>

Board of Directors' news and notes

Nominating Committee – John Glass, Lesley Webb, Debbie Kroetsch

WHS is currently recruiting for **Vice President**. If you are a current member who is interested in serving, you are encouraged to email a committee member (see the back page) or whs@whs.ca for the full job description.

Book Table Co-ordinator – Mary Anne Banks

Welcome to Mary Anne Banks who joined the WHS Board of Directors at the virtual Board and Council meeting held on November 1, 2022. She is taking over from Sherwood Hagey. As co-ordinator, Mary Anne will assist in keeping the inventory and soon-to-be book listing on the website up-to-date. <https://www.whs.ca/booktable/> When WHS resumes getting together in person she will staff the table and report sales to the board.

Annual volume articles – rych mills

As 2023 enters our lives, the publication committee is busy finalizing the 2022 annual volume. Among the stories you'll enjoy are: ♦ One that reveals what well-known long-defunct furniture company's intricate and masterful carvings decorate what local church – bought at a bargain price. ♦ Far-off wars in the British Empire didn't seem to affect old Waterloo County but one county soldier has been buried on the other side of the world for 120 years. ♦ Some 80 years ago the federal government turned an East Avenue property into a training centre – and since that time it has hosted numerous military organizations and housed hundreds who would have been homeless. ♦ And there will be lots more.

We welcome articles about various aspects of Waterloo Region history for the annual volume. See details and contact information for submissions at <https://www.whs.ca/authors/>. Articles may be submitted anytime; deadline for each year is September 30.

Web Site – annual volume searches

WHS is currently working on creating an online index of all the annual volumes. Once completed, it will be available on our website. All WHS annual volumes since 1913 are available in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History (GSR) at the Kitchener Public Library, as well as most other libraries in Waterloo Region. The number of digitized annual volumes available on the WHS web site has been increased to include up to 1960 (www.whs.ca/volume-search). To search for authors, articles, topics and images try the following resources: A card file index for volumes to 1995 in the GSR. Information is at www.kpl.org/localhistory/whs, a table of contents on the WHS web site for volumes from 1913 to present at www.whs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/table-of-contents.pdf and indexes of text and images for volumes to 2015 on the WHS web site at www.whs.ca/online-index.

We acknowledge that the land on which we meet are the lands traditionally used by the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabeg and Neutral peoples. We also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous people with whom we share this land today. We are all treaty people with a responsibility to honour all our relations.

Who we are and how to reach us

Web Site www.whs.ca

Email whs@whs.ca

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

Facebook

www.facebook.com/waterloohs

Twitter @WaterlooHS

Instagram [waterloohistoricalociety](https://www.instagram.com/waterloohistoricalociety)

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Archives: Karen Ball-Pyatt
karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org for
questions about the WHS archives
and if you have items to donate.

Book Table

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

Membership:

October 1 to September 30

See whs.ca/memberships for a form
to print, information and benefits.

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

Newsletter

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

*Thank you for help with and
distribution of this issue to Karen
Ball-Pyatt, rych mills, Erin Applebee,
Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt.*

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.