

# Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter



Summer 2026

Sophia Grande-Lawlor, Editor

## Annual Volume and Summer Meeting

*Submitted by rych mills*

WHS Annual Volume #112 will be distributed on Tuesday June 23 at our regular meeting.

It is free to all who were members from October 1 2024 to September 30 2025. Doors open at 630 at the Victoria Park pavilion, 80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener. The meeting features Eric Storey discussing his work into the life of Dougall MacDougall King, younger brother of William Lyon Mackenzie King. The volume can be picked up that evening from 6:30 to 7:15, then again after the presentation.

It will also be available at the Victoria Park Gallery, 83 Schneider Avenue, on June 24 and 25 from 4 until 6pm and also at the Gallery on Saturday and Sunday June 27 and 28th from noon until 3:00.

Contact [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) or 519 742 4990 for more information.

We acknowledge that the land on which we meet are the lands traditionally used by the Haudenosaunee, Anishnaabeg, 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.

# Online Index Available

The [WHS Index project](#) aims to enable local history researchers to quickly locate articles and subject matter in the annual volumes and ensure that the volume remains relevant in the digital age. The indices are available online here. Thank you to Devon Rempel for working on the latest indices!

# Congratulations

Congratulations to Waterloo Historical Society member Irene Schmidt-Adeney for winning first place in the Ontario Community Newspapers Association's Best Editorial, circ. 8,000 & under category for her work with Ayr News.

# Condolences

To the family of David Emberly, who passed away on April 17, 2026. A longtime Waterloo Historical Society and Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation member, David made significant contributions to his community and was known for his passion for history and architecture. His obituary can be found [here](#).

# Waterloo-Wellington Network

The **Waterloo-Wellington Network (WWN)** is a collective of 36 museums, art galleries, libraries, and natural heritage sites across the Waterloo Region and Wellington County. Its goal is to promote local cultural institutions, host joint tourism campaigns, and provide shared community resources. The network has provided a map highlighting the amazing, nearby exploration opportunities for local residents and tourists. Paper maps will be available at the sites and on websites starting July 1st. Check out the map on page 3-4!

[whs.ca](http://whs.ca)

## Have news to share?

Send the newsletter committee updates to

**[whs1912newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whs1912newsletter@gmail.com)**

Deadline for Fall 2026 newsletter Friday, September 11, 2026.



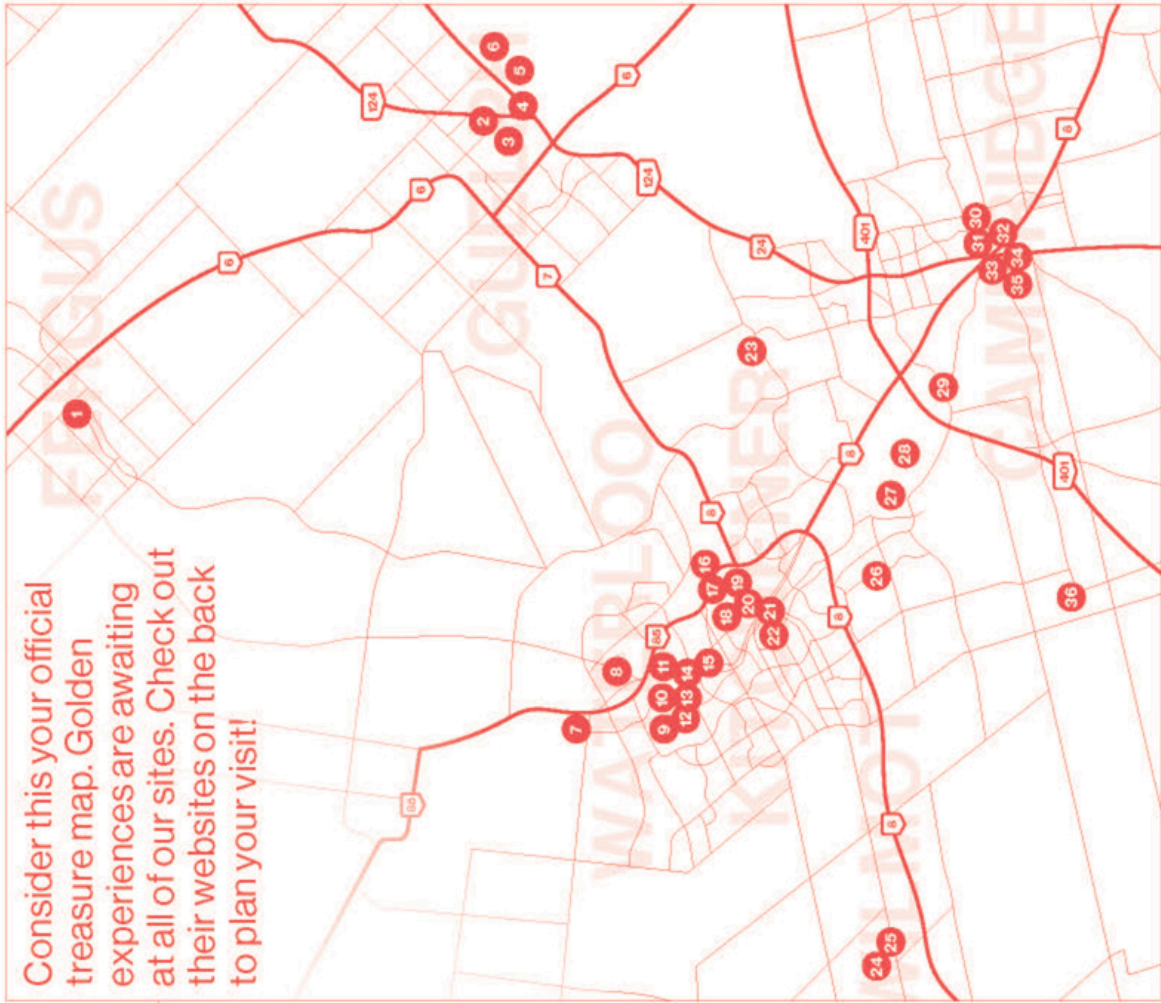


A collaborative network of museums, galleries, archives, and environmental institutions connecting visitors with the culture, history, and natural heritage of Waterloo and Wellington.

- 1 **Wellington County Museum and Archives**  
0536 Wellington Rd 18, Fergus, ON N1M 0A1
- 2 **Guelph Museums and Culture**  
52 Norfolk St, Guelph, ON N1H 2W9
- 3 **Guelph Black Heritage Society**  
83 Essex St, Guelph, ON N1H 3K9
- 4 **Art Gallery of Guelph**  
358 Gordon St, Guelph, ON N1G 1Y1
- 5 **C.A.V. Barker Museum of Canadian Veterinary History**  
50 Stone Rd E, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1
- 6 **University of Guelph Arboretum**  
200 Arboretum Rd, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1
- 7 **The Mennonite Story**  
Log House, 878 Weber St N, Waterloo, ON N2J 4A9
- 8 **City of Waterloo Museum**  
550 King St North, Conestoga Mill, Waterloo, ON N2L 5W6
- 9 **Brubacher House**  
Frank Tompa Dr, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
- 10 **University of Waterloo Art Gallery**  
263 Phillip St, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
- 11 **Wilfrid Laurier Archives**  
75 University Ave W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3B5
- 12 **University of Waterloo Computer Museum**  
University Ave W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3L3
- 13 **University of Waterloo Earth Sciences Museum**  
200 University Ave W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
- 14 **Robert Langen Art Gallery**  
75 University Ave W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3B5
- 15 **Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery**  
25 Caroline St N, Waterloo, ON N2L 2Y5
- 16 **Woodside National Historic Site**  
528 Wellington St N, Kitchener, ON N2H 5L5
- 17 **Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery**  
101 Queen St N, Kitchener, ON N2H 6P7
- 18 **Spectrum Waterloo Region's Rainbow Community Space**  
283 Duke St W #210, Kitchener, ON N2H 3X7

- 19 **Waterloo Historical Society**  
85 Queen St N, Kitchener, ON N2H 2H1
- 20 **Region of Waterloo Museums and Archives**  
10 Huron Rd, Kitchener, ON N2P 2E7
- 21 **THE MUSEUM**  
10 King St W, Kitchener, ON N2G 1A3
- 22 **Schneider Haus National Historic Site**  
466 Queen St S, Kitchener, ON N2G 1W7
- 23 **Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory**  
2500 Keesler Rd, Cambridge, ON N3H 4R7
- 24 **Castle Kilbride NHS**  
60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1
- 25 **Wilnot Heritage Fire Brigades**  
10 Bell Dr, Wilnot, ON N3A 4J8
- 26 **J. Steckle Heritage Homestead**  
811 Blooms Rd, Kitchener, ON N2E 3X4
- 27 **Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum**  
10 Huron Rd, Kitchener, ON N2P 2E7
- 28 **Homer Walton House & Gallery**  
1754 Old Mill Rd, Kitchener, ON N2P 817
- 29 **rare Charitable Research Reserve**  
1679 Blair Rd, Cambridge, ON N3H 4R8
- 30 **Cambridge Centre for the Arts**  
60 Dickson St, Cambridge, ON N1R 0M1
- 31 **Cambridge City Archives**  
46 Dickson St, Cambridge, ON N1R 7M6
- 32 **Fire Hall Museum & Education Centre**  
56 Dickson St, Cambridge, ON N1R 1T8
- 33 **Cambridge Art Galleries**  
11 Square, Cambridge, ON N1S 2K6
- 34 **Cambridge Sculpture Garden**  
53 Grand Ave S, Cambridge, ON N1S 2L7
- 35 **McDougall Cottage Historic Site**  
89 Grand Ave S, Cambridge, ON N1S 2L7
- 36 **Detweiler Meetinghouse**  
3445 Roseville Rd, Ayr, ON N0B 1E0

Consider this your official treasure map. Golden experiences are awaiting at all of our sites. Check out their websites on the back to plan your visit!





# WATERLOO—WELLINGTON NETWORK

A COLLECTIVE OF MUSEUMS, GALLERIES & ARCHIVES

A collaborative network of museums, galleries, archives, and environmental institutions connecting visitors with the culture, history, and natural heritage of Waterloo and Wellington.

Have you been to them all?  
Use this map to see all that our sites have to offer!  
Check em all for an unforgettable time!

 <b>Wellington County Museum and Archives</b> 0638 Wellington Rd 18, Fergus, ON N1M 0A1 <a href="http://wcm.ca.wellington.ca">wcm.ca.wellington.ca</a>	 <b>Guelph Museums and Culture</b> 52 Norfolk St, Guelph, ON N1H 2W9 <a href="http://guelphmuseums.ca">guelphmuseums.ca</a>	 <b>Guelph Black Heritage Society</b> 83 Essex St, Guelph, ON N1H 3K9 <a href="http://guelphblackheritage.ca">guelphblackheritage.ca</a>	 <b>Art Gallery of Guelph</b> 358 Gordon St, Guelph, ON N1G 1Y1 <a href="http://artgalleryofguelph.ca">artgalleryofguelph.ca</a>	 <b>C.A.V. Barker Museum of Canadian Veterinary History</b> 50 Stone Rd E, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1 <a href="http://barkerveterinarymuseum.uoguelph.ca">barkerveterinarymuseum.uoguelph.ca</a>	 <b>University of Guelph Arboretum</b> 200 Arboretum Rd, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1 <a href="http://arboretum.uoguelph.ca">arboretum.uoguelph.ca</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6
 <b>The Menonite Story</b> Log House, 878 Weber St N, Waterloo, ON N2J 4A9 <a href="http://themennonitestory.com">themennonitestory.com</a>	 <b>City of Waterloo Museum</b> 550 King St North, Conestoga Mall, Waterloo, ON N2L 5W6 <a href="http://waterloo.ca/museum">waterloo.ca/museum</a>	 <b>Brubacher House</b> Frank Tompa Dr, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1 <a href="http://waterloo.ca/brubacher-house">waterloo.ca/brubacher-house</a>	 <b>University of Waterloo Art Gallery</b> 283 Philip St, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1 <a href="http://uwag.uwaterloo.ca">uwag.uwaterloo.ca</a>	 <b>Wilfrid Laurier Archives</b> 75 University Ave W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3B5 <a href="http://library.wfu.ca/research/laurler-archives">library.wfu.ca/research/laurler-archives</a>	 <b>University of Waterloo Computer Museum</b> University Ave W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3L3 <a href="http://waterloo.ca/computer-museum">waterloo.ca/computer-museum</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 12
 <b>University of Waterloo Earth Sciences Museum</b> 200 University Ave W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1 <a href="http://waterloo.ca/earth-sciences-museum">waterloo.ca/earth-sciences-museum</a>	 <b>Robert Langen Art Gallery</b> 75 University Ave W, Waterloo, ON N2L 3B5 <a href="http://wu.ca/academics/library/robert-langen-art-gallery">wu.ca/academics/library/robert-langen-art-gallery</a>	 <b>Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery</b> 25 Caroline St N, Waterloo, ON N2L 2Y5 <a href="http://theclayandglass.ca">theclayandglass.ca</a>	 <b>Government of Canada</b> Woodside National Historic Site 528 Wellington St N, Kitchener, ON N2H 6L5 <a href="http://parks.canada.ca/woodside">parks.canada.ca/woodside</a>	 <b>Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery</b> 101 Queen St N, Kitchener, ON N2H 6P7 <a href="http://kwag.ca">kwag.ca</a>	 <b>Spectrum Waterloo Region's Rainbow Community Space</b> 263 Duke St W #210, Kitchener, ON N2H 1X7 <a href="http://ourspectrum.com">ourspectrum.com</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> 13 <input type="checkbox"/> 14 <input type="checkbox"/> 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 17 <input type="checkbox"/> 18
 <b>Waterloo Historical Society</b> 85 Queen St N, Kitchener, ON N2H 2H1 <a href="http://whs.ca">whs.ca</a>	 <b>Region of Waterloo Museums and Archives</b> 10 Huron Rd, Kitchener, ON N2P 2R7 <a href="http://regionofwaterloomuseums.ca">regionofwaterloomuseums.ca</a>	 <b>THE MUSEUM</b> 10 King St W, Kitchener, ON N2G 1A3 <a href="http://themuseum.ca">themuseum.ca</a>	 <b>Schneider Haus National Historic Site</b> 466 Queen St S, Kitchener, ON N2G 1W7 <a href="http://schneiderhaus.ca">schneiderhaus.ca</a>	 <b>Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory</b> 2500 Kossuth Rd, Cambridge, ON N3H 4R7 <a href="http://cambridgebutterfly.com">cambridgebutterfly.com</a>	 <b>Castle Kilbride NHS</b> 60 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A1 <a href="http://castlekilbride.ca">castlekilbride.ca</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> 19 <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 21 <input type="checkbox"/> 22 <input type="checkbox"/> 23 <input type="checkbox"/> 24
 <b>Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades</b> 10 Bell Dr, Wilmot, ON N3A 4J8 <a href="http://wilmotfiremuseum.com">wilmotfiremuseum.com</a>	 <b>J. Steele Heritage Homestead</b> 81 Bleams Rd, Kitchener, ON N2E 3X4 <a href="http://steelehomestead.ca">steelehomestead.ca</a>	 <b>Homer Watson House &amp; Gallery</b> 1754 Old Mill Rd, Kitchener, ON N2P 1H7 <a href="http://homerwatson.on.ca">homerwatson.on.ca</a>	 <b>rare Charitable Research Reserve</b> 1679 Blair Rd, Cambridge, ON N3H 4R8 <a href="http://raresites.org">raresites.org</a>	 <b>Cambridge Centre for the Arts</b> 60 Dickson St, Cambridge, ON N1R 8N1 <a href="http://cambridge.ca/recreation-culture/cambridge-centre-for-the-arts">cambridge.ca/recreation-culture/cambridge-centre-for-the-arts</a>	 <b>Detweiler Meetinghouse</b> 3445 Rossville Rd, Ayr, ON N0B 1E0 <a href="http://detweilermeeetinghouse.ca">detweilermeeetinghouse.ca</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> 25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26 <input type="checkbox"/> 27 <input type="checkbox"/> 28 <input type="checkbox"/> 29 <input type="checkbox"/> 30
 <b>Cambridge City Archives</b> 46 Dickson St, Cambridge, ON N1R 7A6 <a href="http://cambridge.ca">cambridge.ca</a>	 <b>Fire Hall Museum &amp; Education Centre</b> 56 Dickson St, Cambridge, ON N1R 1T8 <a href="http://firehallmuseum.ca">firehallmuseum.ca</a>	 <b>Cambridge Sculpture Garden</b> 111 Square, Cambridge, ON N1S 2K6 <a href="http://cambridgept.ca/cambridge-art-galleries">cambridgept.ca/cambridge-art-galleries</a>	 <b>McDougall Cottage Historic Site</b> 89 Grand Ave S, Cambridge, ON N1S 2L7 <a href="http://regionofwaterloomuseums.ca">regionofwaterloomuseums.ca</a>	 <b>Detweiler Meetinghouse</b> 3445 Rossville Rd, Ayr, ON N0B 1E0 <a href="http://detweilermeeetinghouse.ca">detweilermeeetinghouse.ca</a>	 <b>Detweiler Meetinghouse</b> 3445 Rossville Rd, Ayr, ON N0B 1E0 <a href="http://detweilermeeetinghouse.ca">detweilermeeetinghouse.ca</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 <input type="checkbox"/> 32 <input type="checkbox"/> 33 <input type="checkbox"/> 34 <input type="checkbox"/> 35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36

**MARYHILL is**

**200 !!**

**Come Celebrate with us**

 **July 1<sup>st</sup> 11am- 2pm**

**Maryhill Historical Society's Halter House  
1338 Maryhill Road**

**Food, Music, Giveaways, Displays,  
and a Special Commemorative  
Beverage**



**1826 - 2026**



# Transform

*Article and photographs by Jon Fear*

In the last 10 years parts of Waterloo Region have undergone transformations so complete it's a struggle to remember the buildings and businesses that have disappeared.

A stretch of King Street East in downtown Kitchener offers a good example. In 1949, the single block between Madison Avenue and Cameron Street was the heart of what the Kitchener Waterloo Record, in a Sept. 24 story that year, described as an emerging "Motor Row" on King East where post-war car sales were booming.

On the north side of King in that short block were:

-Hall Automobiles Ltd. at 440 King St. E., featuring Chevrolet and Oldsmobile cars. Its building incorporated part of a former Berlin and Waterloo Street Railway car barn, built in 1902.

-Nels Shantz Ltd. at 470 King St. E., featuring Studebaker cars.

And on the south side were:

-Stevens Motors Ltd. at 471 King St. E., featuring Ford Mercury and Lincoln cars.

-Gascho Motors Ltd. at 481 King St. E., featuring Nash and Reo vehicles.



*Demolished in the last year, this building at 450 King Street E. and Madison Avenue North in Kitchener was part of the Hall Automobiles Ltd. site in 1949. It incorporated part of a Berlin & Waterloo Street Railway car barn built in 1902.*

All four were family businesses. Today, the buildings used by those dealerships (and by many other ventures over the years) are gone.

On the north side of King, the City of Kitchener proposes to build both a 19-storey Kitchener Housing Inc. apartment building and a city fire station. It is currently using the construction hoarding along Madison Avenue North to display photos showing the fire department's history.

On the south side of King, construction workers for Drewlo Holdings Inc. are in the final stages of completing Vertikal, a major residential development that includes ground-level retail outlets along King.

What happened to the four "Motor Row" dealerships on this block in 1949? Here's a brief summary:

Hall Automobiles, operated by brothers Bert and Percy Hall, was sold in 1952. It became Orr Automobiles, which in the 1960s moved to 20 Ottawa St. N., where it later became Stedelbauer Motors. In recent years the old Hall showroom on King held the Sushi Star Kitchener restaurant, now at 4281 King St. E.



*The former showroom of Hall Automobiles Ltd. at 450 King St. E., demolished in 2025.*

Nels Shantz Motors was named for founder Nelson G. Shantz and it continued at the same site until 1962. Most recently the building held the Ben Thanh grocery store, which is now at 387 King St. E.

Stevens Motors, later Stevens Mercury Sales Ltd., was founded by Millage A. “Bert” Stevens, who for years advertised: “One of my sons will serve you.” In 1969 Stevens moved part of its operations across King to the old Hall (Orr) site. It did business on both sides of the street for 20 years before moving to a Victoria Street North location. Gascho Motors was founded by Emanuel Gascho, a self-taught mechanic who started Gascho Motors 100 years ago in 1926. It moved to a new garage and showroom at 470 King St. E. in 1947 and for many years was an American Motors dealership.

Today’s Gascho Automotive Ltd. is owned by Dave Gascho, a grandson of the founder. It moved from King Street in 2016 and is now at 130 Birch Ave., Kitchener. Outside of the Madison-Cameron block, there were four other dealerships along King East’s “Motor Row” in 1949. They were: Proudfoot Motors (Dodge and DeSoto), Buddell and Keller (Kaiser-Fraser and Hillman), Shotwell Motors (Ford and Monarch) and McKie-Scarlett (Chrysler and Plymouth).



*This building at 470 King St. E. was the home of Nels Shantz Motors Ltd. in 1949. It was demolished in 2025.*



*This 2016 image shows the Gascho Automotive building at 481 King St. E. In 1949, the building to the right was the home of Stevens Motors Ltd.*

*The City of Kitchener is displaying old fire department images on the construction hoarding along Madison Avenue North near King Street East.*



*The Vertikal apartment towers are being completed on the south side of King Street East between Madison Avenue and Cameron Street. On the north side of King in the foreground, the City of Kitchener plans to build a fire station and a 19-storey Kitchener Housing Inc. apartment building. This view looks along Madison Avenue.*

# Who we are and how to reach us

---

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

**Email** [whs@whs.ca](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/waterloohs)

**Instagram**

[@waterloohistoricalsociety](https://www.instagram.com/waterloohistoricalsociety)

---

**Board of Directors**

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

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

Secretary: Mary Lapp  
[secretarywhs1912@gmail.com](mailto:secretarywhs1912@gmail.com)

Archivist: Vacant

Communications Chair:  
Lesley Webb

Membership Chair: Mary Anne Banks  
[whsmemberships1912@gmail.com](mailto:whsmemberships1912@gmail.com)

Editor, Newsletter: Sophia Grande-Lawlor  
[whs1912newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whs1912newsletter@gmail.com)

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

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

Book Table Coordinator:  
rych mills  
[whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca)

Programs Committee  
Chair: rych mills  
[rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net)  
519 742-4990

Directors  
Debbie Kroetsch  
Ray Ruddy  
David Emberly  
Glenn Thorpe

---

**Councillors**

Cambridge: Vacant  
Kitchener: Erin Applebee,  
Jon Fear, Sandra Parks,  
Harold Russell  
Waterloo: Jane Britton  
North Dumfries Township:  
Kim Hopps, Irene Schmidt-  
Adeny Wellesley Township:  
Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt,  
Nancy Maitland  
Wilmot Township: Patty  
Clarke  
Woolwich Township:  
Marion Roes, Diane  
Strickler

**Archives**

[gsr@kpl.org](mailto:gsr@kpl.org) for questions about the WHS archives and if you have items to donate. Please note, donations are currently paused.

**Book Table**

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

**Membership**

Membership take place from October 1 to September 30. See membership forms and benefits at [whs.ca/membership](http://whs.ca/membership).

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

---

Newsletter Comments, questions and submissions may be sent to the editor, Sophia Grande-Lawlor.

*Thank you for help with and distribution of this issue to Sandra Parks, Jon Fear, Mary Anne Banks, and rych mills.*