

---

# Waterloo Historical Society

## Newsletter

### July 2023

---



Marion Roes, Editor

### Public Meetings

All are welcome. There is no admission charge.

**Tuesday July 11, 2023**  
**"History Under the Trees"**  
**Doors open at 6:30; meeting at 7:30**

**Victoria Park Pavilion**  
**80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener**

Our speaker will be Peggy Plet who has been researching the presence of Black citizens in the Waterloo County area. In her presentation, *Searching for Black Residents in Kitchener-Waterloo*, she will explain why this research is relevant and important, talk about sources researched thus far, and lastly, outline the challenges that come with this kind of research. She will begin with the earliest freedom seekers and work her way into the 20th century. Publication chair rych mills will update the progress of the 2022 annual volume 110.

WHS member Len Curchin will give a brief outline of his newly published book, *Defence not Defiance: The Militia of Waterloo County 1812-1914*. He will have copies for sale. (See page 3.)

Come early to meet and greet other members AND browse and buy at the two WHS Book Tables.

**Parking:** If the pavilion lot is full, there is more parking past the playground near the Iron Horse Trail.

For information contact [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net) or 519 742-4990.

**Flash!** in addition to the regular Book Table, a **Super Sale Book Table** will feature multiple-copy books; ones of peripheral interest to our area; general Canadian and world history including military. **33% off** (no additional member's discount). Cash or checks preferred; Interac e-transfer possible.

### Volume Pickup/Delivery

It is anticipated that annual Volume 110 (2022) will be available mid-August. Details about obtaining your member's copy will be emailed and on the web site [www.whs.ca](http://www.whs.ca). Those without internet or email can phone rych mills, WHS publication chair, at 519 742-4990 after August 1.

### Membership

Those who are current members for 2023 will receive the Annual Volume 110 – 2022. If you haven't renewed for 2023, membership forms can be printed from [WHS.ca/membership](http://WHS.ca/membership) and payment made as per instructions on the form. If you're not sure of your status, or have questions, please contact membership chair Mary Anne Banks at [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca). Forms include levels of Annual Volume Patron amounts if you would like to support publication of the annual volume. Thank you for supporting WHS! Membership renewals for 2024 will be due October 1.

## Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

---

I am happy to announce that we have digitized our first local 2SLGBTQ+ collection! Check out the Ron Welker 2SLGBTQ+ collection on History in the Making (<https://makinghistory.kpl.org>). We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Edna Staebler Legacy Fund in making this project possible and the work of our project archivist, Rai.

The library's oral history tape collection is now available on History in the Making! There are almost 600 interviews online to stream or download. Many thanks go to Julia, our Young Canada Works student, who uploaded and catalogued the tapes.

Mark your calendars for the KPL Genealogy Fair being held on Saturday, November 4, 2023! We are planning a full day of workshops, learning, networking and more! We hope to see you there! An announcement about the keynote speaker will be made shortly. Stay tuned to the Historically Speaking blog (<https://www.kpl.org/your-library/blogs>) for more details!

Join us for...

- "Seances and Disembodied Spirits in Southwestern Ontario" with Nick Richbell, on Wednesday, July 5 at 6:30pm.
- Interested in bookbinding? We have "Bookbinding for Beginners" programs on Tuesday, July 18 or Tuesday, August 22 at 6:00 pm.
- Want to learn how to decipher clues from family photographs? Join us for "Exploring Family Photos" on Thursday, August 31 @ 6:30pm. [I would stick with one format for "at"]
- We are also continuing to offer our "Show Me How to Digitize" program on various days throughout the summer.

These programs are held at Central Library. Check out all our programs on KPL's Event and Program listing (<https://www.kpl.org/programs-and-events/event-listing>). Register online or call the library at 519-743-0271 to reserve your spot!

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.

## Captain Smith Plaque in Priddle Park – 2012 & 2023

---



November 2012: Warren Stauch, Debbie Kroetsch (pictured), Elinor Rau and Marion Roes placed the plaque on the post.



2023

Both photos by Marion Roes.

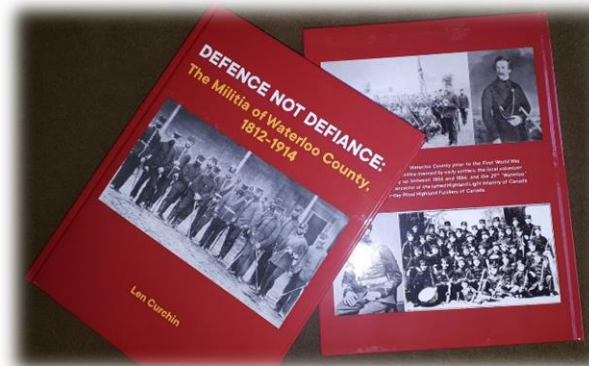
Sometime before 2012, the Captain Smith plaque was removed from near the confluence of the Grand and Conestogo Rivers on Sawmill Road when that road was widened. Warren Stauch stored the plaque until the new location was prepared in nearby Priddle Park – an irregular gore lot where Sawmill Road and Golf Course Road meet. Across from the park is where the late Elinor Rau grew up long before the park was established and long after Captain Smith travelled and lived nearby. Thank you to Woolwich Township staff for replacing the post and rock.

### New Book

#### *Defence not Defiance* by Len Curchin

---

A new book by WHS member Len Curchin tells the story of the militia of Waterloo County from 1812 to 1914. It includes the participation of local volunteers in the War of 1812, the Fenian raids and the South African War, as well as the training activities and social events of the 29<sup>th</sup> “Waterloo” Regiment. The names of many prominent local citizens and families will be found in this 270-page, illustrated history. The author, a retired University of Waterloo professor and former militia officer, combines research skill and military knowledge to produce an authoritative yet enthralling work. *Defence not Defiance* will be available for purchase at the July 11 meeting for \$60 (cash only).



# 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](mailto:whs@whs.ca) for the full job description.

*New Membership Chair*

Thank you to Mary Anne Banks for taking over from Erin Applebee as Membership Chair effective at the Board and Council meeting June 6, 2023.

*Thank you to Erin Applebee* for her excellent and cheerful service as Membership Chair since September 2018. She will stay on the WHS Board and continue as a director. Along with keeping track of members, membership renewals and mailing lists, duties include working with the newsletter editor for renewal reminders and email and mailing lists. In addition, the chair coordinates volume distribution with the publication committee. At our public meetings, the membership chair is available to take renewals and payments and answer questions.

*Submissions for Annual Volume 111 (2023)* are still needed. Anyone doing research on family, business, an organization, old documents, old photo collection, letters, etc. – anything to do with the history of the Waterloo Region area – is invited to contact the editor rych mills at [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net). Deadline is November 2023. See <https://www.whs.ca/authors/> for more information.

*Volunteer Service Awards* – Marion Roes

The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism gives Ontario Volunteer Service Awards annually and in five-year increments for each volunteer. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/honours-and-awards-volunteering>

On the next page are the WHS recipients for 2022. The nomination years are shown with their actual years of service in brackets. The total is 150 years! We can apply for a maximum of six adults per year, and there are usually more than six who qualify. In 2022, recipients received by mail, a certificate, Ontario VSA pin and a platinum Jubilee pin recognizing Queen Elizabeth's 70-year reign. Congratulations and Thank You to the recipients!

*Thank you to the Ernest & Honor Hachborn Foundation*

On behalf of the members, the WHS Board of Directors would like to thank the Ernest and Honor Hachborn Foundation for its generous donation of \$500. The Foundation is represented by Andrew Hachborn and Malcolm Hachborn and is in honour and remembrance of the Hachborns who were long-time WHS members.

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.

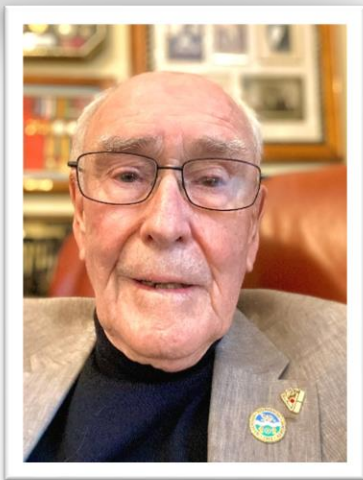
# Volunteer Service Awards 2022



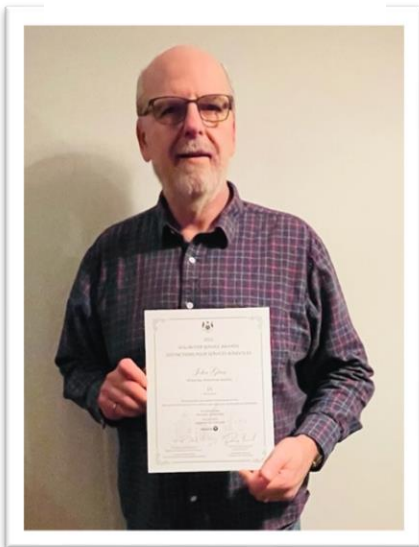
Debbie Kroetsch 35 (37) years Karen Ball-Pyatt 15 (16) years



Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt 35 (37) years



Harold Russell 40 (43) years



John Glass 15 (18) years



Lesley Webb 10 (12) years

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

---

**Board of Directors**

**President:** John Glass

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

**Past President:** Lesley Webb

[lesley.webb@gmail.com](mailto:lesley.webb@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Jeff Shank

[jeff420shank@gmail.com](mailto:jeff420shank@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Mary Lapp

[secretarywhs1912@gmail.com](mailto:secretarywhs1912@gmail.com)

**Archivist:** Karen Ball-Pyatt

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

**Membership Chair**

Mary Anne Banks

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

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

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

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

**Book Table Coordinator:**  
Mary Anne Banks [whs@whs.ca](mailto:whs@whs.ca)

**Programs Cmte Chair**  
Eric Uhlmann 519 577-5773

**Directors**

Debbie Kroetsch

Ray Ruddy

David Emberly

Erin Applebee

Glenn Thorpe

---

**Councilors**

Cambridge: Vacant

Kitchener: Harold Russell,

Sandra Parks

Waterloo: Jane Britton

North Dumfries Township:

Kim Hopps, Irene Schmidt-Adeny

Wellesley Township: Nancy Maitland

Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt

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

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

**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:**

**October 1 to September 30**

See [whs.ca/memberships](http://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.