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# Waterloo Historical Society

## Newsletter

### October 2023

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Marion Roes, Editor

### Public Meeting

All are welcome. There is no admission charge.

**Tuesday, November 7, 2023**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Doors open at 6:30; meeting at 7:30**

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

While there is no formal program, rych mills will give a brief talk about the production of the 2022 Annual Volume prior to convening the AGM which will be conducted by president John Glass.

Note that regular WHS operations were disrupted due to COVID-19, and this impacted our AGMs. This AGM covers the WHS sessions from October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022 (110<sup>th</sup> AGM) and from October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023 (111<sup>th</sup> AGM). For more information about the meetings, contact John Glass, WHS president at [jcglass@rogers.com](mailto:jcglass@rogers.com)

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

### *Annual Volume Pickup...*

Members who are paid for 2023 can pick up their volume from 6:30 until 7:20, and again after the meeting concludes. We would appreciate it if you are able to pick up and deliver copies for other members who you know can't attend.

### *... and Distribution*

Additional dates and times for pick up at the Victoria Park Gallery (not the pavilion) are as follows:

Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12, between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday, November 13 and 14, between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

For information/questions about the annual volume pickup/delivery, contact rych mills at [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net).

### *Membership*

As of October 1, it's time to renew for 2024. Bring your completed form to the meeting (included with this newsletter), or one printed from [WHS.ca/membership](http://WHS.ca/membership). To mail your renewal or pay via Interac e transfer, please see the instructions on the form. If you're not sure of your status, or have questions, please contact membership chair Mary Anne Banks at [whsmemberships1912@gmail.com](mailto:whsmemberships1912@gmail.com). Forms include levels of Annual Volume Patron amounts to support the annual volume publication. Thank you for your support!

## Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

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Mark your calendars for the **KPL Genealogy Fair** (<https://www.kpl.org/services/local-history-and-genealogy/genealogy-fair>) being held on Saturday November 4, 2023. It is free and no registration is required. We are planning a full day of workshops, learning, networking and more! Aaron T. Francis is our keynote speaker and he'll be sharing his journey discovering his Jamaican heritage and his digital archive Vintage Black Canada. We'll be uploading our slate of speakers to the Genealogy Fair page in October. We hope to see you at the Fair!

**Show Me How to Digitize!** Do you have a box of photos or VHS family movies to digitize, but are unsure how to start? Appointments are available Monday to Saturday. To register for all programs – register online or call 519-743-0271, ext. 212 or email [gsr@kpl.org](mailto:gsr@kpl.org).

There are some new displays in the Grace Schmidt Room. Come by and check them out!

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.

## Condolences

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Waterloo Historical Society offers condolences to families of our members who have died. We are grateful for their contributions and support. A link to each obituary is included here for those who would like to read it.

To the family and friends of *Ransom Vrooman* who died December 23, 2022.

<https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/therecord-waterloo/name/ransom-vrooman-obituary?id=39786959>

To the family and friends of *Doug Kuhn* who died on March 5, 2023.

<https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/therecord-waterloo/name/doug-kuhn-obituary?id=49692520>

To Marg Rowell and her family for the death of husband and father *Bob Rowell* in late March, 2023.

<https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/therecord-waterloo/name/robert-rowell-obituary?id=51526101>

To the family and friends of *Brian Dietrich* who died on September 9, 2023.

<https://erbgood.com/tribute/details/16715/Robert-Dietrich/obituary.html>

To the family and friends of *Gerry Engel* who died on September 21, 2023.

<https://obituaries.thererecord.com/obituary/geraldine-gerry-ann-engel-1088845503>

## Emancipation Day Plaque Unveiled in Hawkesville

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On Saturday August 26, the Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society, along with friends and neighbours along with descendants of the original Black settlers, unveiled a historic plaque to commemorate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1863 Emancipation Day Picnic that had been held on Temperance Island, Hawkesville. More photos are at <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org>

## A Few Extra News and Notes

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A good Facebook page to find out what's going on at Waterloo Region and Wellington County museums and galleries is at <https://www.facebook.com/WaterlooWellingtonMuseumsAndGalleries>

*Detweiler's Meetinghouse: A History of Mennonites near Roseville, Ontario* is a 96-page history book written by Reg Good and was published in 1999. Included is a detailed description of the amazing 1990s restoration of this 1855 stone meetinghouse. There is also an index of all persons buried in the adjoining Roseville Mennonite Cemetery up to 1999. Copies are available from Marion Roes at [mlroes@sympatico.ca](mailto:mlroes@sympatico.ca). See also <https://detweilermeeinghouse.ca>.



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.



# Board of Directors' News and Notes

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*Nominating Committee* – John Glass, Lesley Webb, Debbie Kroetsch

The Nominating Committee is currently recruiting for a Vice President and a Cambridge Councillor. Councillors promote the interests of the society in their municipality and inform the society about historical events in their area. Councillors are appointed to a one-year term and are welcome to attend all board meetings as non-voting participants. For information about becoming a councillor, visit <https://www.whs.ca/councillor-duties/> and contact a member of the Nominating Committee whose email is on the last page here.

*Submissions for Annual Volume 111 (2023)* are still welcome. 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 the information at <https://www.whs.ca/authors/>.

## Volunteer Service Awards 2023

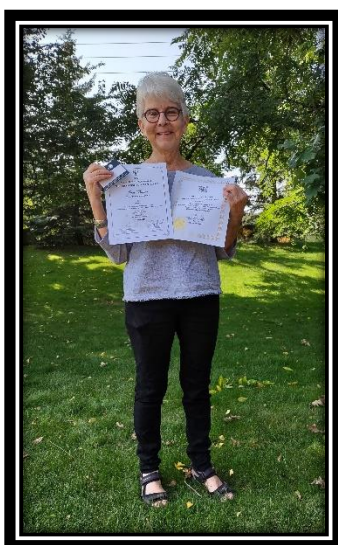
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The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism presents Ontario Volunteer Service Awards annually and in five-year increments for each volunteer nominated.

This year was a catch-up with two sets of awards given for 2022 (in the July newsletter) and 2023 shown here. Their nomination years are shown with the actual years of service in brackets. The total years for these six award winners is 120 (126) years! *Congratulations and Thank You to the recipients!* Missing for a photo is Susan Mavor 5 years (7).



Ray Ruddy 15 years (16)  
Diane Strickler 30 years (31)  
Jeff Shank 25 years



Jane Britton 5 years (7)



Bertha Thompson 40 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)

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## 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  
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**Communications Chair**  
Lesley Webb

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

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**Plaques Cmte Chair:** Warren Stauch  
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**Book Table Coordinator**  
rych mills [rychmills@golden.net](mailto:rychmills@golden.net)

**Programs Cmte**  
Acting Chair: John Glass

**Directors**  
Debbie Kroetsch  
Ray Ruddy  
David Emberly  
Erin Applebee  
Glenn Thorpe

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**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

A Membership Form is on page 4 for  
you to use. Also, see  
[whs.ca/membership](http://whs.ca/membership) forms and  
benefits at [whs.ca/membership](http://whs.ca/membership).

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

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## 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, Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt  
and Mary Anne Banks.*

*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.*