



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH  
November 6, 2023 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
VIRTUAL MEETING BY ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION &  
IN-PERSON AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE –  
7404 WELLINGTON RD 34, PUSLINCH

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## A G E N D A

DATE: November 6, 2023

MEETING: 1:00 P.M.

≠ Denotes resolution prepared

1. Call the Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Moment of Reflection
4. Confirmation of the Agenda ≠
5. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest
6. Delegations
7. Consent Agenda ≠
  - 7.1. September 11, 2023 Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes
  - 7.2. October 23, 2023 Special Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes
  - 7.3. September 2023 edition - Ontario Historical Society Bulletin



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8. Reports ≠

- 8.1. Report – HER-2023-021 – Radiocommunications Tower Sub-committee
- 8.2. Report – HER-2023-022 – Properties for Designation 2024
- 8.3. Report – HER-2023-023 – Plaque Replacement Update
- 8.4. Report – HER-2023-024 – Goals and Objectives Update

9. Correspondence

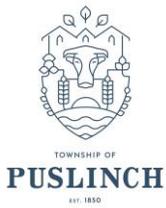
- 9.1. Introduction to Puslinch Historical Society and 2023 Update

10. Announcements

11. Notice of Motion

12. New Business

13. Adjournment ≠



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING BY ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION  
23 BROCK RD S.

## **MINUTES**

**DATE:** September 11, 2023

**MEETING:** 1:00 P.M.

The September 11, 2023 Heritage Advisory Committee meeting was held on the above date and called to order at 1:07 p.m. via in person participation at the Puslinch Community Centre at 23 Brock Rd S and via electronic participation.

### **1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

### **2. ROLL CALL**

**Attendance:**

Russel Hurst  
Andy Day  
Kristine O'Brien  
Lily Klammer-Tsuji

**Absent:**

Josh Heller

**Staff in Attendance:**

Laura Emery, Communications and Committee Coordinator  
Justine Brotherston, Deputy Clerk  
Courtenay Hoytfox, Municipal Clerk

### **3. MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

### **4. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA**

**Resolution No. 2023-040:**

Moved by Kristine O'Brien and  
Seconded by Andy Day

**That the Heritage Advisory Committee approves the September 11, 2023 Agenda as circulated.**

**CARRIED.**



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**5. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

Kristine O'Brien declared a potential conflict of interest related to report HER-2023-017, specifically Schedule E – 4-08100 – 7156 Concession 1 and Schedule L – 6-09000 – 80 Brock Rd S due to her employment with the Presbyterian Church of Canada and being the Director of Chieff Hills Retreat Centre.

**6. DELEGATIONS**

None

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7.1 June 5, 2023 Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes
- 7.2 Township of Puslinch Council Resolution 2023-202
- 7.3 CHOnews – Spring 2023

**Resolution No. 2023-041:**

Moved by Lily Klammer-Tsuji and  
Seconded by Kristine O'Brien

**That Consent Agenda items listed for the September 11, 2023 Heritage Advisory Committee meeting be received for information.**

**CARRIED.**

**8. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

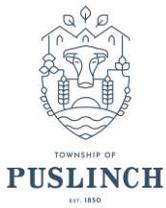
- 8.1 Committee Memo – Councillor Hurst

**Resolution No. 2023-042:**

Moved by Lily Klammer-Tsuji and  
Seconded by Andy Day

**That the Committee Memo entitled "2023 Ontario Heritage Conference" be received for information.**

**CARRIED.**



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8.2 Committee Memo – Lily Klammer-Tsuji

**Resolution No. 2023-043:**

Moved by Andy Day and  
Seconded by Kristine O'Brien

**That the Committee Memo entitled “Review of June Ontario Heritage Conference” be received for information.**

**CARRIED.**

**Heritage Advisory Committee recessed from 2:02 p.m. to 2:13 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

**Russel Hurst**

**Andy Day**

**Kristine O'Brien**

**Lily Klammer-Tsuji**

8.3 Report – HER-2023-017 – Designation Process Update

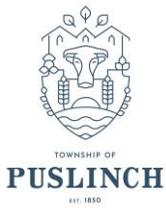
Kristine O'Brien declared a potential conflict of interest related to report HER-2023-017, specifically Schedule E – 4-08100 – 7156 Concession 1 and Schedule L – 6-09000 – 80 Brock Rd S due to her employment with the Presbyterian Church of Canada and being the Director of Chief Hills Retreat Centre.

**Resolution No. 2023-044:**

Moved by Andy Day and  
Seconded by Lily Klammer-Tsuji

**That staff report HER-2023-017 regarding Heritage Register Designations Update be received for information; and,**

**That the priority property listing and supporting materials attached to this report with the exceptions of Schedules E and L be endorsed for designation by the Heritage Advisory Committee and referred to Council for consideration for intention to designate as amended; and,**



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**That the committee approves report as amended and that the statements be provided for a technical review by the peer reviewer prior to being provided to Council for Consideration.**

**CARRIED.**

**Resolution No. 2023-045:**

Moved by Lily Klammer-Tsuji and  
Seconded by Andy Day

**That the priority property listing and supporting materials Schedules E and L attached to this report be endorsed for designation by the Heritage Advisory Committee and referred to Council for consideration for intention to designate as amended; and,**

**That the committee approves report as amended and that the statements be provided for a technical review by the peer reviewer prior to being provided to Council for Consideration.**

**CARRIED.**

8.4 Report – HER-2023-018 – 2024 Budget Requests

**Resolution No. 2023-046:**

Moved by Andy Day and  
Seconded by Kristine O'Brien

**That staff report HER-2023-018 regarding the 2024 Heritage Advisory Committee Budget Requests report be received for information; and,**

**That the Heritage Advisory Committee endorse the proposed additions to the Heritage Advisory Committee's budget as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

8.5 Report – HER-2023-019 – Goals and Objectives Training

**Resolution No. 2023-047:**

Moved by Kristine O'Brien and  
Seconded by Andy Day



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**That staff report HER-2023-019 regarding Committee Goals and Objectives Training be received for information.**

**CARRIED.**

8.6 Report – HER-2023-018 – Goals and Objectives

**Resolution No. 2023-048:**

Moved by Andy Day  
Seconded by Kristine O'Brien

**That staff report HER-2023-020 entitled 2022-2026 Goals and Objectives Update be received for information; and,**

**That the Heritage Advisory Committee's Engagement Sub-Committee vacancy be moved to a future meeting.**

**CARRIED.**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**10. ANNOUCEMENTS**

None

**11. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

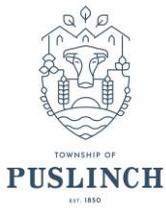
**12. NEW BUSINESS**

Lily Klammer-Tsuji provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing her experience at the Ontario Heritage Conference.

**Resolution No. 2023-049:**

Moved by Lily Klammer-Tsuji  
Seconded by Kristine O'Brien

**That the Heritage Advisory Committee receive the Ontario Heritage Committee June 2023 presentation by Lily Klammer-Tsuji for information; and,**



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**That staff provide a report regarding support for designated properties through CIP, Grants and/or Tax Rebates at a future Heritage Advisory Committee meeting.**

**CARRIED.**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution No. 2023-050:**

Moved by Andy Day  
Seconded by Kristine O'Brien

**That the Heritage Advisory Committee hereby adjourns at 2:21 p.m.**

**CARRIED.**



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH  
OCTOBER 23, 2023 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING BY ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION  
MUNICIPAL OFFICE – 7404 WELLINGTON RD 34, PUSLINCH

## **MINUTES**

**DATE:** October 23, 2023

**MEETING:** 1:00 P.M.

The October 23, 2023 Heritage Advisory Committee meeting was held on the above date and called to order at 1:06 p.m. via in person participation at the Municipal Office at 7404 Wellington Rd 34 and via electronic participation.

### **1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

### **2. ROLL CALL**

**Attendance:**

Russel Hurst  
Andy Day  
Lily Klammer-Tsuji

**Staff in Attendance:**

Laura Emery, Communications and Committee Coordinator  
Justine Brotherston, Deputy Clerk (Interim Municipal Clerk)  
Courtenay Hoytfox, Municipal Clerk (Interim CAO)

**Absent:**

Kristine O'Brien  
Josh Heller

### **3. MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

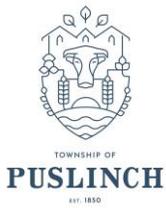
### **4. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA**

**Resolution No. 2023-051:**

Moved by Lily Klammer-Tsuji and  
Seconded by Andy Day

**That the Heritage Advisory Committee approves the October 23, 2023 Agenda as circulated.**

**CARRIED.**



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH  
OCTOBER 23, 2023 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING BY ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION  
MUNICIPAL OFFICE – 7404 WELLINGTON RD 34, PUSLINCH

**5. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

None

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Resolution No. 2023-052:**

Moved by Lily Klammer-Tsuji and  
Seconded by Andy Day

**That Correspondence item 6.1 entitled Review of Radiocommunications Tower Application for 7424 Wellington Rd 34, Puslinch be received for information; and,**

**That the Heritage Advisory Committee provides the following comments with respect to the Radiocommunications Tower Application for 7424 Wellington Rd 34 to be forwarded to the proponent Shared Tower Inc. and Council for consideration:**

**That the Heritage Advisory Committee does not support the application as presented for the radiocommunications tower at 7424 Wellington Rd 34 due to its proximity and impact of sitelines with respect to 8 Brock Rd which is a property listed on the Township's Heritage Register with non-designated status; and,**

**That the Heritage Advisory Committee supports an alternate location of the proposed radiocommunication tower such as the address municipally known as 7426 Wellington Rd 34.**

**CARRIED.**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution No. 2023-053:**

Moved by Andy Day  
Seconded by Lily Klammer-Tsuji

**That the Heritage Advisory Committee hereby adjourns at 1:31 p.m.**

# OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 223

SEPTEMBER 2023

## NEWBORO & AREA HERITAGE SOCIETY HOSTS "HERITAGE MATTERS"

## OHS TO CELEBRATE 135 YEARS AT 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Members of the Newboro and Area Heritage Society (NAHS) met on June 26 to hold their public incorporation meeting with the local community. OHS ED Daniel Dishaw spoke about the importance of the incorporation program and the dedication of volunteers and heritage advocates like the members of the NAHS, which was incorporated through affiliation with the OHS on July 7. From left to right are: Mary White, member at large; Adam Ball, Treasurer; Dudley Hill, Fundraising Coordinator; Kathy Mussell, Secretary; Daniel Dishaw; Kim Lulashnyk, Chair; Joan White, member at large; and Ted Stewart, Vice Chair. Board members not pictured are: Diane Haskins, Colleen Bedore, and Lily Bedore.

**Kimberly Lulashnyk**, Chair, Newboro and Area Heritage Society  
[create@stonemanorstudios.ca](mailto:create@stonemanorstudios.ca)

The historic Red Brick School in Elgin served as the meeting point for several heritage organizations, local stakeholders, and the Ontario Historical Society on June 26, 2023. The gathering, "Heritage Matters: A Meet & Greet," was organized to highlight and discuss the ongoing efforts to preserve and promote the rich history of the Rideau Lakes region. Central to the event was the Newboro and Area Heritage Society's (NAHS) recent initiative to join the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) through incorporation. The Rideau Lakes Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee supported the event with the NAHS acting as hosts and organizers. The goal was twofold: firstly, to familiarize the recently appointed OHS Executive Director, Daniel Dishaw, with the region's heritage-focused efforts; and secondly, to provide a platform for heritage preservation organizations to connect with each other and allow stakeholders to share their experiences and challenges in the realm of heritage work.

"NEWBORO & AREA HERITAGE" CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

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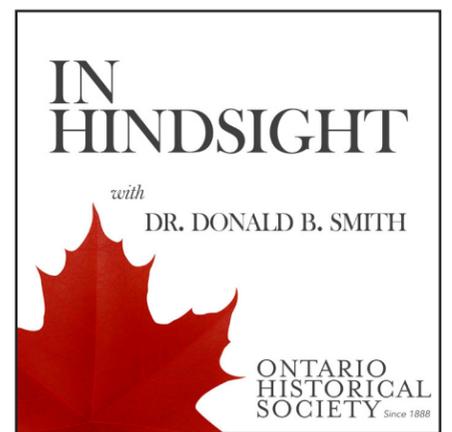


The Ontario Historical Society's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 135th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society will take place on Thursday, October 12, 2023, beginning at 7:00 pm EST.

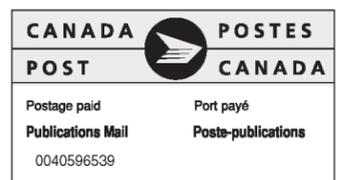
The AGM will once again be held virtually. We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our members who have been able to virtually attend our recent AGMs from all corners of Ontario.

Please call or email the OHS office to register for the 135th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at 416-226-9011 or [ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

This year, Dr. Donald B. Smith will deliver the keynote presentation, focussing on the process of synthesizing 50 years of research into a podcast series, as well as some of his favourite discoveries and topics featured in the 21-episode series. For more on Dr. Smith and the *In Hindsight* podcast, please visit the OHS website at [ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/podcasts/in-hindsight/](https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/podcasts/in-hindsight/).



The Ontario Historical Society  
34 Parkview Avenue  
Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2  
CANADA



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kristin Ives, President  
[kives@erca.org](mailto:kives@erca.org)

Hello. Bonjour. Boozhoo.

I hope each of you has enjoyed the bounty and beauty of the summer. Here in Essex County, the farm stands are full of fresh tomatoes, blueberries, peaches, gladiolas, and more. Communities around the province are surely celebrating the season with various festivals and fairs. At the John R. Park Homestead, we are preparing to participate in the Harrow Fair, hosted by the Colchester Agricultural Society since 1878. Summer is a wonderfully busy season for museums and historical societies – hosting special events and activities as they welcome families and other visitors from near and far. Summer students have been showcasing their new skills in exhibits, summer camp programs, and social media posts.

The Society has been busy, as well, hosting several events at the John McKenzie House over the past few months. In May, the OHS participated in Doors Open and welcomed roughly 1,000 visitors to the John McKenzie House. The event included partnering with three community organizations to animate the space, including local artists and musicians. The OHS has participated in Doors Open since its inception in 2000. This event provides a fantastic way for staff to connect with the local community. The OHS was also pleased to host an art exhibition by sculptor Lubo Brezina. His large-scale wood sculptures were a fixture at the John McKenzie House for five days in June, attracting fans of fine art from across the city.

The end of June is also a busy time administratively, as it is typically the time that provincial grants are due. Each year, the OHS supports its membership by assisting with their Heritage Organization Development Grant applications and writing letters of good standing. This year, staff supported the work of dozens of members from across the province as they applied for annual operating funding. Wishing all of our member organizations success in their various funding applications.

I'm very pleased to welcome all of our members to the 135th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society. More information about registration and our keynote speaker, Dr. Donald B. Smith, can be found in the article on page 1 of this *Bulletin*. I look forward to presenting on our 2022 Annual Report there.



Photo – Sarah McCabe

Long-time OHS donor and supporter Jamie Laidlaw visited the John McKenzie House for Doors Open 2023. He has been an incredible advocate for the Society for many years, and has personally donated both time and financial support to help the OHS modernize and reach new audiences. Jamie has helped the Society fundraise for its digitization and digital infrastructure projects, including the OHS website, the *Ontario History Journal* Archive, and OHS podcast production. Pictured above from left to right are OHS ED Daniel Dishaw, Jamie Laidlaw, and new OHS member and supporter, Philip Stern.

On behalf of the OHS Board of Directors and the Society's membership, I send our deepest condolences to family and friends of Kirk Howard. Kirk founded Dundurn Press and was an avid supporter of the OHS and a long-time friend and supporter of staff and members alike. Dundurn Press titles were frequently well reviewed and won numerous prizes, including many OHS book awards. Kirk's passion for local history is reflected in Dundurn's publishing tradition, which has featured so many books on Ontario's history. Kirk will be remembered fondly by many of our members and subscribers across the province. Barry Penhale, OHS member, *Bulletin* columnist, and longtime friend of Kirk Howard delivers a full tribute to Kirk on page 4.

I also want to pay tribute to long-time OHS member and perennial volunteer, Jeanne Hopkins, who passed away peacefully on July 13 at age 84. A historian of North York and Willowdale, Jeanne was a wonderful person to work with who contributed so much of her time and energy to the Ontario Historical Society and the North York Historical Society throughout her many years of membership. She will be greatly missed by OHS staff and by so many of our members.

All my best,  
Kristin

# ONTARIO HISTORY

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**VOL. 115, No. 2  
AUTUMN 2023**

*"It is a Glorious Cause and I Will Die for It" - William Alves*  
by Chris Raible

*The Patriot War Letters of W.W. Dodge to Dr. Charles Osgood*  
by Robert Beasecker

*Niagara County, New York: Its Role in the Patriot War*  
by Bruce D. Aikin

*Patriots, Publishers, and Hunters Respond to the Rebellion and Patriot War, 1837-1841*  
by Josh Steedman

*The Patriot Press and their Paper Tiger, 1836-1842*  
by Stephen R.I. Smith

*The Family Life That John Berry Had But Never Experienced*  
by Cozy Venable Palmer and Michael W. Kehoe

*Hiram Sharp: A Life Changed by the Battle of the Windmill*  
by Terrance Patterson

*The Many Lives of James Milne Aitchison*  
by Ian Hundey

*Chauncey Sheldon, a Survivor of the 1838 Patriot War*  
by John C. Carter

*The 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion/Patriot War and its Aftermath*

## ONTARIO HISTORY

AUTUMN 2023

Scheduled to reach *Ontario History* subscribers in November, the 2023 Autumn issue features nine new peer-reviewed articles:

**"It is a Glorious Cause and I Will Die for It" — William Alves**  
by Chris Raible

**"Remember Me to Friends If I Have Any":  
The Patriot War Letters of W.W. Dodge to Dr. Charles Osgood**  
by Robert Beasecker

**Niagara County, New York: Its Role in the Patriot War**  
by Bruce D. Aikin

**Rumours, Ruffians, and the U.S.-Upper Canada Border: Patriots, Publishers,  
and Hunters Respond to the Upper Canadian Rebellion and Patriot War,  
1837-1841**  
by Josh Steedman

**The Patriot Press and their Paper Tiger:  
Community Formation and Allusions to the Patriot Hunters, 1836-1842**  
by Stephen R.I. Smith

**The Family Life That John Berry Had But Never Experienced**  
by Cozy Venable Palmer and Michael W. Kehoe

**Hiram Sharp: A Life Changed by the Battle of the Windmill**  
by Terrance Patterson

**The Many Lives of James Milne Aitchison, a Battle of Windsor Raider**  
by Ian Hundey

**The Long Odyssey of Chauncey Sheldon, a Survivor of the 1838 Patriot War: His Story**  
by John C. Carter

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[ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/ontario-history-journal/](http://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/ontario-history-journal/).

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Daniel Dishaw, Executive Director  
[ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

Since our last edition of the *Bulletin*, I have been pleased to participate in so many great events and meetings with our members across Ontario. I travelled to eastern Ontario in July to meet with our newest affiliated organization, the Newboro and Area Heritage Society (NAHS), which incorporated through affiliation with the OHS on July 7, 2023.

NAHS will seek to collect, study, preserve, convey, and celebrate the rich history of Newboro and area. Its aims and objectives are to conserve the area's cultural resources; to promote and facilitate fundraising activities to achieve its mission; to preserve, interpret, exhibit, and communicate the histories, artifacts, and cultures of Newboro and area; and to improve public understanding and awareness of these diverse histories through events, displays, exhibitions, and by providing access to relevant archival material.

The OHS Board of Directors and staff are pleased to welcome this new group to the Ontario Historical Society. In her lead article for this edition of the *Bulletin*, NAHS Chair Kimberly Lulashnyk goes into detail about our meetings on June 26 and all of the fantastic collaboration happening in the heritage community of the Rideau Lakes region. Congratulations to the members of the NAHS and kudos to all the hard-working heritage advocates I had the pleasure of meeting during my visit to the area in June.

After the meet-and-greet, I was given a five-star tour of the area's rich heritage landscape, visiting significant historic sites in several towns. A school bus served as our transport for the day—a blast of nostalgia that I won't soon forget. I was also treated to an excellent meal at the Stirling Lodge in Newboro. If you're travelling through the area, I would absolutely recommend you book a stay or stop in for a meal. The owners are avid heritage advocates and have done an incredible job of maintaining and preserving the historic lodge. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make my visit so welcoming, productive, and educational.

I visited a few more of our members and member organizations as I passed through eastern Ontario, including the Lost Villages Museum in Long Sault. This museum boasts an impressive collection of recovered artifacts, buildings, and archival documents relating to the twelve lost communities that existed along the St. Lawrence River prior to the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project in the late 1950s.

Life member and long-time supporter of the OHS, Jim Brownell is the President of the Lost Villages Historical Society (LVHS) that operates the museum. I was pleased to meet with Jim and David Hill (of the LVHS) for a tour of the relocated buildings from the Lost Villages now housed at Ault Park. The museum site at Ault Park consists of ten heritage buildings that were moved and restored from The Lost Villages and surrounding townships by the members of The Lost Villages Historical Society. Both the interiors and exteriors of the buildings have been restored, and they have been assembled in a village-like setting in the park. My own family traces our roots back to this part of the province, so it was a real pleasure to visit this site and learn more about our history. Jim goes into detail about our visit together in his article below, and makes mention of my grandfather, Frank Dishaw, who was the first Captain of the Great Lakes freighter named Carol Lake. As it happens, that ship was built and launched in Collingwood in 1960. The lead article in the Museum Milestones column (page 5), submitted by Melissa Shaw, touches on the unique history of shipbuilding in Collingwood. It's always so satisfying to make these connections in our history!

On July 26 I travelled to Canfield to meet OHS Cemeteries and Preservation Committee Co-Chair Janie Cooper-Wilson and Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) Inspector Andrew Reynolds to participate in a joint site



Photo – Daniel Dishaw

Pictured above are OHS Preservation and Cemeteries Committee Co-Chair Janie Cooper-Wilson and BAO Inspector Andrew Reynolds identifying grave shafts and markers during a recent joint inspection of the Street Family Cemetery in Canfield, Haldimand County.

inspection of the Street Family Cemetery in Haldimand. Haldimand County has recently invested in the restoration and cleanup of this historic site, the final resting place of Harriet Tubman's niece, Caroline "Carrie" Stewart, who fled the United States in search of freedom, ultimately settling in Canfield. Filmmaker Graeme Bachiu and his crew were on site to document the process and interview representatives about the important work being done to restore the cemetery. Bachiu's documentary series on the history of this cemetery and the descendant community, *Canfield Roots*, won the 2021 OHS President's Award. The OHS is committed to ensuring that cemeteries in Ontario are preserved and protected on behalf of the public interest. It was fantastic to see the BAO and the OHS working together toward that common goal, and I was pleased to see all the work Haldimand County has done to restore the site. We look forward to seeing that great work continue.

My predecessor, Rob Leverty, was an incredible advocate for cemetery preservation as Executive Director of the OHS. I know our members and donors appreciate all the work Rob has done, and many of you recently made donations to the OHS "In honour of Rob Leverty" to express that gratitude. I want to thank you all on behalf of Rob and the OHS staff for your generosity and your continued support of the organization.

In the next few months, we have much to look forward to. Our AGM is approaching and I'm excited to meet with all of you then. I know Don Smith will give a fascinating and engaging talk on all the research and recording that went into producing *In Hindsight: Half A Century of Discoveries in Canadian Research* for the OHS.

OHS staff and Willowdale residents are excited about some new restoration work that will soon be under way at the historic John McKenzie House: The Stable, Coach House, and Milk House will be getting some attention from heritage restoration experts this fall. Staff will be documenting the process to share with our members. We also have some great community events coming up at the John McKenzie House this season, including an artisan market, a theatrical collective event, and several meetings of OHS members and other local not-for-profits. Staff are pleased to support all the programming and community engagement happening at the John McKenzie House.

I'm also pleased to be attending the National Trust Conference in Ottawa this October. My colleague, Sarah McCabe will join me. OHS staff and board members are always delighted to attend conferences and other collaborative events across the province. I'll be out on the road again this fall to meet with more of our members and prospective affiliates, a privilege I always look forward to. I hope you all enjoy the fall season. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

All my best,  
Daniel

## OHS VISIT TO THE LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM

Jim Brownell, President, Lost Villages Historical Society

On Tuesday, June 27, 2023, Nancy and David Hill and I were pleased to welcome three members of the Dishaw family, Dwight, Alexis, and Daniel, home to their roots in the lands of the "Lost Villages". Daniel's father, grandparents, and generations of Dishaw family members before them lived in and around the Lost Village of Dickinson's Landing, Ontario.

The first stop was the Ontario Power Generation Saunders Visitor Centre at Cornwall, where the Dishaw and Hill family members viewed the iconic film: *From Dream to Reality*—Ontario Power Generation's story of the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Projects, completed in

1958. Our guests viewed diagrams and photos depicting the history of the St. Lawrence Seaway before and after all the relocation.

Next on the agenda was a short drive to the village of St. Andrews West for a visit to a historic cemetery where the famous Canadian explorer Simon Fraser and John Sandfield Macdonald, the first Premier of Ontario (1867 to 1871) lie buried.

The highlight of the day was the visit to the [Lost Villages Historical Society's museum at Ault Park, South Stormont](#). As President of the Lost Villages Historical Society, I welcomed the Dishaw and Hill families to the



David Hill of the LVHS holds up a photo of Mille Roches before the relocation and eventual flooding of the town to make way for the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project.

"LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM" CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...

## REMEMBERING KIRK HOWARD 1943-2023

Barry Penhale  
[barry@naturalheritagebooks.com](mailto:barry@naturalheritagebooks.com)

On June 30, John Kirk Howard passed away at age 80. Always courteous and smartly attired, he stood out in any gathering, be it at home in his beloved Canada or abroad on international book business. Kirk made friends easily and earned the highest regard from fellow members of the book trade.

As a friend and colleague of Kirk's, I think it only fitting to respectfully remember the many ways Kirk Howard was a Canadian publishing pioneer, a member of a select group that includes only a handful of others, with indie publishers Jack David and James Lorimer immediately coming to mind. Through this trio's dedication and hard work, they proved it was possible to thrive in spite of the constant challenges confronting Canada's independent presses. To Kirk and others go kudos for their not easily achieved longevity in an always topsy-turvy field. Because of them, book enthusiasts across the country and beyond enjoy an impressive number of quality Canadian published books, and have been introduced to some fine writers they may otherwise have missed. With Kirk Howard at the helm, many Dundurn titles were published that reinforced his personal passion for Canadian history. It must have delighted Kirk greatly that when Ontario Historical Society book reviewers Chris and Pat Raible were retiring, they recognized hundreds of books received for review, but singled out only three presses by name: University of Toronto Press, Dundurn Press, and Natural Heritage Books. The latter being the small press I founded, which later merged with Dundurn.

Bright with a rapier-like wit, his interests beyond publishing included genealogy and British royalty, subjects often covered during his 47 years in the book business. To his delight, Dundurn imprinted titles were frequently well reviewed and won numerous prizes, including many titles reflecting the publisher's passion for Canada. A past president of the Association of Canadian Publishers and the Ontario Book Publishers Organization, Kirk was invested into the Order of Canada in 2019. As sociable as they come, he was a long-time member of the Arts and Letters Club, which he frequented often until health issues dictated otherwise.

I took it as the ultimate compliment when, upon becoming one of his associates, Kirk said it was as if he was returning to his own publishing roots.



Photo—Dundurn Press—Ian Payton

By then, Dundurn had evolved into our largest solely-owned Canadian press. But Kirk missed the kind of publishing I had become known for, the kind that had been the norm for him during his earlier years in publishing. Fortunately, the Dundurn publishing board, on which my wife Jane and I sat, found favour with book proposals that reminded one and all about Dundurn's ongoing role in telling stories about our local history. Documenting important chapters of the past is, in my estimation, central to the considerable legacy Kirk Howard has left behind.

Having sold Dundurn Press in 2019, an ailing Kirk was to spend his remaining years at his Lake Simcoe condo. Kirk Howard will be greatly missed by many.

## EMANCIPATION DAY 2023

Daniel Dishaw, Executive Director  
[ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

I was pleased to be invited to the Ontario Black History Society's (OBHS) Emancipation Day Celebration at Fort York National Historic Site in Toronto. My colleague Sarah McCabe was also in attendance to support our friends and members at the OBHS.

The performances and presentations were fantastic as always. I was especially moved by Leslie McCurdy's one-woman play, *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman*, which uses Harriet's own words in telling the story of her life from her earliest experiences as a slave, through her work on the Underground Railroad, to her continued commitment to others in her later years. The play was fantastic, and it was a privilege to meet Leslie McCurdy and speak with



At Fort York on Emancipation Day, 2023. From left to right are OHS ED Daniel Dishaw, actor and playwright Leslie McCurdy, and OBHS President Dorothy Abbott.

her after the performance. McCurdy has been performing *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman* for more than 25 years.

I was also pleased to be reunited with many friends and OHS members at the OBHS celebration on August 1. After the conclusion of the program, I had an opportunity to chat with everyone. Pancheta Barnett, President of the East York Historical Society, approached me with a request: to submit a letter of reflection on what Emancipation Day means to me personally. My response was included in a community display by the East York Historical Society on the theme of "Exploring Emancipation" at Todmorden Mills in Toronto. This was my response:



Daniel and Pancheta Barnett at Fort York National Historic Site on Emancipation Day, 2023.

*On August 1, we gather to commemorate the liberation of more than 800,000 enslaved Africans in Canada, the Caribbean, South America, and South Africa. For hundreds of years, people of African descent suffered horrendous acts of hate and violence as a result of the slave trade. On Emancipation Day, we reflect on the destructive and painful legacy of slavery in Canada while celebrating the remarkable strength and determination of those who fought for their freedom.*

*We also gather to celebrate the irreplaceable contributions and achievements of Black Canadians throughout our nation's history. We celebrate Emancipation Day with Black music, art, performance, and thought—the irrefutable evidence that an incredible culture and spirit endured through generations of oppression and discrimination. We gather to emphasize that Black history does not begin or end with the history of slavery.*

*In reflecting on the history of slavery in Canada, we must also acknowledge the lasting impacts, the intergenerational harm, and the continued fight for equity and inclusion. We must address the inequalities and the racism still prevalent in our society today.*

*At the OHS, we are privileged to work with so many of our member organizations who endeavour to preserve and promote Black culture and history here in Ontario. I'm honoured to be able to support this important work as I continue to listen and learn. I encourage everyone to learn more about this important part of our collective history and how we can move forward together.*

Sincerely,  
Daniel Dishaw

## MUSEUM MILESTONES

**Dr. John Carter**  
[drjohncarter@bell.net](mailto:drjohncarter@bell.net)

This issue's lead Museum Milestones article is by Melissa Shaw, Museum Supervisor at the Collingwood Museum. In it, she describes the innovative programs and activities offered there. Collingwood is located in a four-season vacation area, so drop by throughout the year and have a visit.

The Ontario museum community has recently lost several long-standing supporters. Hazen Price passed away at the age of 99. He was one of the founders of the Amherstburg Historic Sites Association, and a long-time executive member of the Park House Museum. He was responsible for saving built heritage in Amherstburg, including the Park House and the Gordon House. He was also one of the first tin smiths at the Park House, and taught many others this craft. Hazen will be greatly missed in Amherstburg and in Essex County.

Ted Douglas died in his 94th year in Windsor. He taught the first group of tinsmiths at the Park House, and later was an active volunteer at the Canadian Aviation Museum in Windsor. A celebration of Ted's life was held there on July 23.

Earl Iler passed on at the age of 97. He was a long-time supporter and volunteer at the John R. Park Homestead (JRPH). As a neighbour, with his home and farm directly across from the JRPH, Earl was of great assistance to me at the Homestead during my time there as curator from 1977 to 1980. He was buried in the Iler Cemetery. Condolences to the Iler family.

After 29 years of service at the Guelph Museums, where she carried out various duties and held several positions, Val Harrison recently retired. Museum staff held a retirement party for her before her departure. All the best Val!

Sad news from the Township of Black River-Matheson. Municipal Council there has voted to close the museum, dissolve the museum committee, and sell the building. The Black River Matheson Museum was first opened in 1973. Thelma Miles was the driving force behind this site for many years, and the museum eventually was re-named the Thelma Miles Museum in her honour. For input from the municipality, contact Mayor Doug Bender at [mayor@twpbrm.ca](mailto:mayor@twpbrm.ca), or Clerk/Treasurer Cassandra Child at [cchild@twpbrm.ca](mailto:cchild@twpbrm.ca).

To end on a positive note, I am happy to announce that the Dr. John C. Carter Award in Museum Studies, has been awarded for the first time at the University of Leicester, England, and the initial recipient was Danielle Megaffin, of Tantallon, Nova Scotia. She plans to use the award to assist in travelling to do research for her Ph.D. thesis. Congratulations, Danielle. For further information or enquiries about this bursary, please contact [museum@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:museum@leicester.ac.uk). This award is open to all Canadian students registered for post-graduate candidates in Museum Studies, at the University of Leicester.

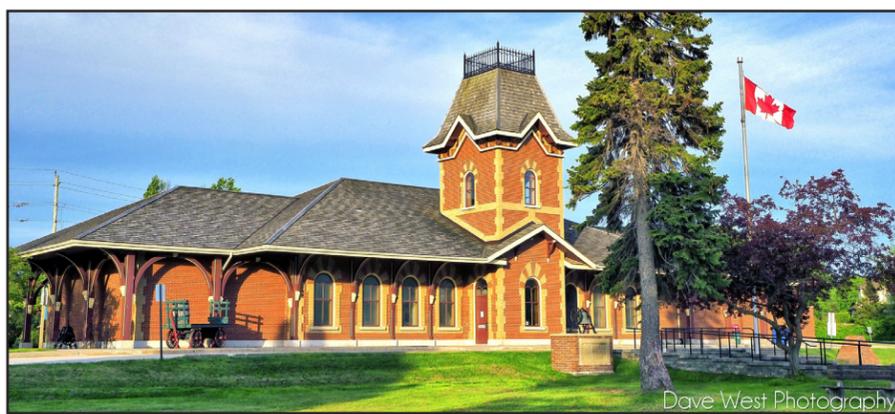
## HERITAGE APPAREL LINE A BIG HIT FOR THE COLLINGWOOD MUSEUM

**Melissa Shaw**, Museum Supervisor, Collingwood Museum

The Collingwood Museum's long history of collecting dates back to the establishment of the Huron Institute in 1904. Housed in the basement of the local Carnegie library, the early museum featured exhibits from its five departments: Zoology, Botany, Geology, History, and Civic Development. The Institute's leader, David Williams, spearheaded the publication of three volumes of essays, biographies, and a historic catalogue. The latter documents the Institute's extensive collection of local and marine photographs and continues to be the museum's most accessed publication.

In 1963, a devastating fire struck the Carnegie library. Surprisingly, most of the Institute's collections survived with varying degrees of water damage. The Town of Collingwood stepped in to take ownership of the early collection and purchased the CN railway station as a permanent home for the collection. The Collingwood Museum officially opened in 1966 and hasn't looked back.

In 1998, the original CN station was replaced with a new building inspired by Collingwood's original and stunning 1873 railway station. Unlike the museum of the past, the Collingwood Museum limits its collecting efforts to the Town of Collingwood's history. The most asked-after collections, particularly photographs, continue to be those originally collected by the Huron Institute.



Until 2020, operation of the Collingwood Museum was stable and included the typical responsibilities of programming, collections management, and exhibition development. Everything changed in March 2020. In the face of pandemic closures and gradual re-openings, museum staff was challenged to engage with the community in new and exciting ways. For at least a decade, staff had been discussing the idea of creating branded t-shirts. With the museum closed, staff decided to launch a cheeky line of history-themed apparel to raise awareness about the museum and Collingwood's past. A museum without visitors is a very gloomy space, so to keep our collective spirits high, we dove headfirst into the design process to make our vision a reality.

The first design launched on March 8, 2021—International Women's Day—and featured a black-and-white photograph from the archives of eight

women welders from the World War Two era of shipbuilding in Collingwood. Emblazoned beneath the portrait was the phrase "This is Women's Work". The initial run was a sellout success and we quickly ordered more. By the end of 2021, the shirts had made their way across the province, country, and into the United States. Entire families were being outfitted with the design as a celebration of their relative's achievements. Receiving a photograph of one of the original welders wearing her shirt was a distinct pleasure for staff—she was just 17 years of age when the photograph was taken in 1943. As well, a photograph collage of an entire family outfitted in the design was shared with staff by a descendant of one of the featured welders (photo shown below).



At a time when in-person visits with family and friends were restricted, or outright banned, the Collingwood Museum had successfully sparked memories and conversations across generations. Taking orders by phone allowed staff to connect with community members and the welders' descendants in ways that we could not have anticipated. So, of course, we wanted to do it again.

The second, even cheekier, design officially launched on May 18, 2021—International Museum Day. Shipbuilding is also a cherished memory from Collingwood's recent past, so a design paying homage to this history would be another homerun with the perfect design. The result was the "Get Your Ship Together in Collingwood" slogan and its pairing with a photograph of a newly built warship, a corvette, in Collingwood's harbour. Like its predecessor, the new design was met with great enthusiasm and became a must-have for former shipyard workers and their descendants, community members at large, and visitors to the area. Very quickly, the "Ship Together" design became our bestselling gift shop item and a spectacular way of promoting both the Collingwood Museum and our community's unique history.

The possibilities for reimagining local history in fun and refreshing ways are endless. Moving forward, we hope to expand on this exciting and successful marketing initiative with many more designs. As with all things, however, time and resources will be determining factors as we work to balance pre-COVID expectations and operations with initiatives largely born of pandemic closures.

To learn more about the Collingwood Museum and its exciting initiatives, visit [collingwood.ca/museum](http://collingwood.ca/museum).

## BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

### DETECTIVE JOHN WILSON MURRAY & THE BLENHEIM SWAMP MURDER

Barry Penhale

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When I was a toddler with hard-working parents building a business of their own, I spent considerable time at my paternal grandparents' home in the Junction district of Toronto. Though I was her grandson, I believe my grandmother, Lucy (Sanders) Penhale (b. 1881), thought of me as yet another son in a rather large brood that included my father. My grandma and my grandpa, Richard "Dick" Penhale, were both from the Exeter area, with similar Huron County farm backgrounds. I tell you this because it would be almost impossible for Ontarians of their era, and especially rural-raised folks, to not be aware of what was often labelled "The Birchall-Benwell Affair." One of my lingering memories from childhood is a precious time at my grandmother's side in the kitchen at 295 Keele Street, when "Maw," (as she was endearingly known to the family) would spontaneously begin singing (unaccompanied) the lyrics to a ditty she knew by heart. I think she would have been barely into her fifties when I first heard her sing the folk song inspired by a tragedy and a celebrated murder trial that was headline news when she herself was still a youngster. It was titled "The Ballad of J.R. Birchall." Here are the lyrics:

Come all you tender Christians, wherever you may be,  
I pray you pay attention to these few words from me;  
On the fourteenth of November, I am condemned to die  
For the murder of F.C. Benwell—upon a scaffold high.

My name is J.R. Birchall – that name I'll not deny,  
I leave my aged parents, in sorrow for to die;  
For little did they think that in my youth and bloom  
I'd be taken to the scaffold to meet an awful doom.

Now Benwell was an Englishman, who had not yet a wife,  
He came out here to Canada to seek an honest life,  
They said that I betrayed him unto a certain spot,  
And there with a revolver poor Benwell, he was shot.

I tried to play off innocent, but found it would not do;  
The evidence being against me, it proved I had no show.  
The judge he gave the sentence, the clerk he wrote it down,  
And to the scaffold I must go to meet my fearful doom.

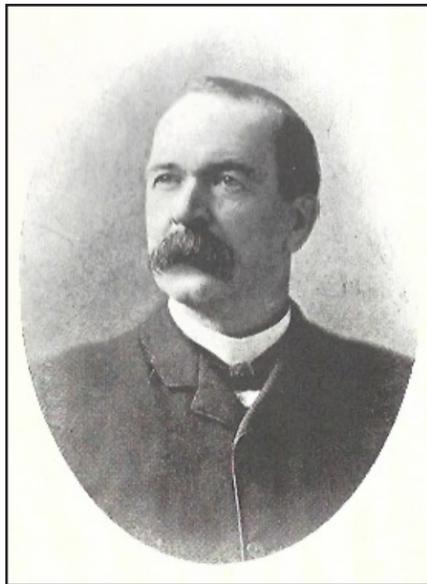
My friends they came to see me, to take their last farewell;  
They seemed most broken-hearted to see me in my cell—  
Saying, "Comrades, darling comrades, why shed those tears for me,  
For when tomorrow's sun shall set, from troubles I'll be free."

My wife she came to see me to take her last farewell,  
She said it was heart-rending to leave me in my cell—  
She said, "My dearest husband, you know that you must die  
For the murder of F.C. Benwell, upon a scaffold high."

It was nine o'clock in the morning, I knew my doom was near;  
I bid farewell to all on earth, to friends and loved ones dear.  
The last few words were spoken, the words "Thy will be done."  
The trap-door was now opened, and Birchall, he was hanged.

The accused was a handsome Oxford University-educated man by the name of Reginald Birchall, a vicar's son who during a stay in Woodstock had masqueraded as Lord Somerset, accompanied by his wife Florence, masquerading as Lady Somerset. The victim, a young man in his twenties, was uncovered in an Oxford County swamp near Woodstock, Ontario, on February 21, 1890. The discovery, made by two local woodcutters, led to a trial of major importance and furthered the already impressive reputation of the Ontario government's Chief Detective at the time, John Wilson Murray.

The Scottish-born John Wilson Murray (portrait shown here) followed his father when he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1857. It was during his naval career that he discovered a plot to free 4,000 Confederate prisoners from an island prison in Lake Erie. This experience prompted him to leave a life at sea and pursue a career in policing. In time, he became Head of Detectives of the Canadian Southern Railway, bringing him north to Canada. Attorney General Oliver Mowat was so impressed by John Murray as to

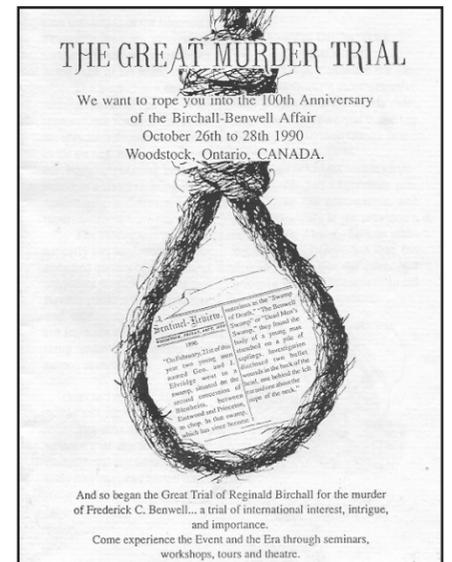


appoint him Provincial Detective of Ontario in 1874. Much ahead of his time in scientific investigation, John Wilson Murray became internationally known and some 33 of his most famous cases make up the contents of his book, *Memoirs of a Great Canadian Detective*, originally published in 1904 and reprinted in 1977 and 1978 by Collins Publishers, Toronto. Though the legendary detective died in Toronto in 1906, he lives on as the central character in the best-selling books by noted Canadian author Maureen Jennings. Yes, it was John Wilson Murray's career that inspired the creation of the extraordinarily popular fictional Detective William Murdoch, so very well known today as the central figure in both the book series and the television show.

No one charged with a crime in Canada up to that time had attracted the amount of interest as did Reginald Birchall. The case even attracted attention in Europe. Cable connections put in place made it possible for the proceedings in the Woodstock Court House to be fed directly to London, UK. Not only English newspapers but their counterparts in France, Italy, and Germany published reams of copy concerning the trial.

Detective Murray, having had the remains of Frederick Benwell photographed, saw to it that engravings made from the photographs were circulated to the press. This marked the first time that a victim's likeness had appeared in Ontario newspapers to aid with an investigation. Already, Detective John Wilson Murray was making forensic history.

In preparation for writing this article, I came across my souvenir program marking the 100th anniversary of The Birchall-Benwell Affair (pictured here). The huge organizational efforts of a Birchall Committee comprised of prominent Oxford County personalities made possible a marvellous three-day gathering in Woodstock during the month of October 1990. Tours and theatre were focused, as never before or since I believe, on this great murder trial of yesteryear. Coordinated by an old friend, Sheila M. Johnson, the organizing team did themselves proud. Everything was so very special but for many in attendance the play "Swamp Murders" was a particular highlight. The production, presented by Woodstock Little Theatre, featured the drama written by Bill Butt whose contributions to the cultural life of Oxford County remain unprecedented. Perhaps the time is right for a revival.



#### ...“LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



A few of the historic buildings open to the public at Ault Park.

Lost Villages Museum site and provided a tour and background information on the formation of the Lost Villages Historical Society and Museum. While at the Forbes Memorial Reading Room, site of the Lost Villages Archives, the Dishaw family members were able to see the coat and cap that once belonged to Daniel's grandfather, Frank Dishaw, a Great Lakes captain.

Following a discussion about the archival collection in the Forbes Memorial Reading Room, a short walk along the boardwalk outside the archives brought us to the Stuart house, a restored home depicting life in the 1950s. This house, built in 1810, is the site where the Lost Villages Historical Society was formed in 1977. Having been moved from Wales to the north end of the Stuart farm at the time of the Hydro relocations in the 1950s, the house was donated to the historical society in 2004 and opened as a museum in 2008. Our visitors marvelled at the amazing collection of artifacts from the families and homes of the Lost Villages.

David and Nancy escorted the Dishaws on a short walk to the west end of Ault Park, where David proudly showed them his grandfather's barber shop, an incredible building relocated from Moulinette and then donated to the Lost Villages Historical Society.

There is a strong family connection between the Dishaw and Hill families. Daniel's grandmother was Ethel (Abrams) Dishaw (1926-1993), the sister to Nancy Hill's mother, Beatrice (Abrams) Eastman (1927-1997).

While the visit to Eastern Ontario and the Lost Villages Museum was much too short, the Dishaw family and all others are always welcome to visit our museum site at Ault Park.



Pictured above (left to right) are Daniel Dishaw, LVHS President Jim Brownell, and David Hill, LVHS.

## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio  
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Summer is a busy season, but most of us take some sort of break from our everyday jobs and domestic routines. It's also a busy season for holidays, old and new, marking significant events in our shared past. Mostly we appreciate the "holiday" element even without active participation in festivities; rarely do we think about the historic elements. In truth, even though some commemorations appear to have recently popped up on the calendar, they would not be commemorative in any true sense if they were not also historic in multiple ways.

Some of the oldest go back to the days before the signal summer holiday, Canada Day, and many date to the first quarter century after Confederation. Launching the summer holiday parade in what is actually late spring, Victoria Day, celebrating the monarch's 24th of May birthday since her own times (1837-1901), was declared a holiday by the Legislature of the Province of Canada in 1845. After her death in 1901, the Parliament of Canada made it a legal holiday across the land. Confederation celebrates the official union of the British North American provinces, which took effect on the first of July 1867. Informal local celebrations were formalized by federal law in 1879, when it was declared a statutory holiday as the "anniversary of Confederation," popularly called "Dominion Day," reflecting the language of the predominantly British Victorians who struck up the deal. Testimonies from the time suggest that Victoria Day was more widely and jubilantly celebrated than Dominion Day, which might explain the 1879 law. "Dominion Day" stuck for nearly a century. In 1982, reflecting new political developments, the name was officially changed with the passing of the Constitution Act and a tweak to the national Holidays Act—though, thanks to procedural squabbling (and some public controversy), this was accomplished the week after that year's celebration, the last Dominion Day ever. Some Canadians are still upset.

More recently, days of acknowledgement and reflection rather than "holidays" in the celebratory sense have been either inaugurated or at least formalized by provincial and federal governments. The First Peoples of the land had much reason to celebrate their survival and make their contributions known when their organizations politicized and began to lobby for a national day of remembrance and recognition during the 1980s. Much of the public pressure for this commemoration has to do with the constitutional repatriation and the new Charter of Rights in 1982, reinforced by the recommendations of the hallmark 1995 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. In 1996, then Governor General Roméo LeBlanc announced the "Proclamation Declaring June 21 of Each Year as National Aboriginal Day," and all of June was designated as National Aboriginal History Month in 2009. Both names were changed to use the preferred term "Indigenous" in 2017.

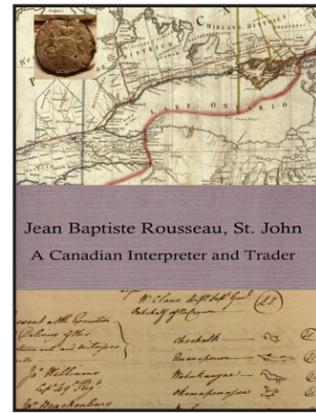
Canadian Multiculturalism Day is the 27th of June, saluting Canadian cultural diversity, by no means a new development but one that also became a matter of national identity under Pierre Elliott Trudeau's direction, when multiculturalism became Liberal government policy (1971); with the Constitution and Charter; and with the Mulroney Multiculturalism Act (1988), although the holiday was not designated until 2002. The national importance of Francophone historic contributions and culture is acknowledged with Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day on the 24th of June. Although officially the National Feast of Quebec, it is celebrated in many francophone communities in Ontario and across a nation in which ten million people speak French and even more can claim French heritage. This includes the Métis and the Acadians, who are regionally dispersed. Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day was mandated in Quebec in 1834, the same year as the national Victoria Day holiday. In 1881, again in Victoria's reign, Acadian Day was mandated at the first national convention of Acadians in New Brunswick; it was made a national holiday in 2003.

Even the most recent "holidays" have historic roots. July is Pride Month in support and celebration of the rights of the 2SLGBTQI+ community, but it began in gay rights protests in 1971, when the first demonstrations took place in Vancouver and Ottawa. By 1973, Pride events were being held in several Canadian cities. Waterloo was among the first, and Toronto's Pride weekend is now among the largest and most organized in North America.

The most recent national holiday, created with the unanimous vote of the House of Commons in 2021, designates the first of August as Emancipation Day to mark the anniversary of the Slavery Abolition Act that passed into law across the British Empire in 1834. John Graves Simcoe Day, celebrated on the first Monday in August, honours the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. More importantly, although Simcoe died before the abolition of slavery, he did manage to pass the first anti-slavery act in the British Empire, the Upper Canadian Act of 1793 Against Slavery, a significant step toward true emancipation and an impressive feat given the pro-slavery views of many important Upper Canadians.

A little history isn't a bad thing, even during summer holiday season. The books I'm looking at this month bring that point home to us. As it happens, I'm reviewing them on the first of August, which, in pagan times, long before any of the holidays mentioned, was called Lughnasadh. Drawn from Irish mythology, the day traditionally marked the midpoint of summer, between the summer solstice and the autumn equinox. A great time to read some good books before the regular seasonal pressures kick in!

## JEAN BAPTISTE ROUSSEAU ST. JOHN: A CANADIAN INTERPRETER AND TRADER



GRANT KARCICH

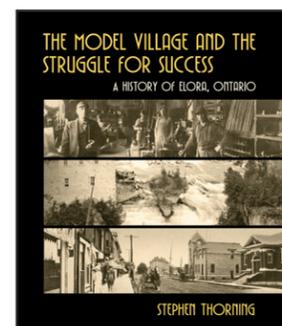
Red Handprint Press, 2023.  
[redhandprintpress.ca](http://redhandprintpress.ca)

Grant Karcich wears a number of scholarly hats; he has degrees in Library and Information Sciences, has worked as a librarian and information sciences consultant, researches and publishes in history, archaeology and genealogy, and has published the works of other writers in these fields. His book, *The Legacy of Vanished Trails*, was reviewed in these pages a few years ago. Like that book, his most recent is multidisciplinary, reflecting his personal interests in historical biography, Indigenous cultures, and geography above all. His subject, the late eighteenth century trader Jean Baptiste Rousseau St. John, was also a man of many skills and interests. Although Rousseau was a lively presence in colonial North America, known and respected within and among its various French, English, and Indigenous sociocultural enclaves, there is little written about him aside from a somewhat-dated entry in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Charles M. Johnston, 1983).

Born in 1758 in Sault-au-Recollet near Montreal, the sixteen-year-old Rousseau, already experienced in the fur trade, on his way to becoming fluent in Ojibway and Iroquoian, and well-versed in English as well as his own language, was obliged to take over the care of his family when his father died suddenly. The elder Rousseau had been an important Quinte Bay fur trader and interpreter for the British Indian department, with which the teenager immediately sought work. His language fluency, his already considerable experience in the trade, his knowledge of the territory, his business acumen, and his seemingly innate gift for diplomacy, afforded him a lifelong career. He expanded into land acquisition and commerce as Upper Canada was increasingly populated by white settlers and the fur trade declined, along with the status of the First Nations at its centre. One of Ancaster's original settlers, Rousseau was involved in the development of Kingston, Hamilton, Toronto, and Brantford, and relocated his family to Toronto just as John Graves Simcoe moved his capital there.

Karcich tells the story of a historical figure seemingly involved in all aspects of a land in transition, highlighting his respect for Indigenous cultures and his attempts to represent their communities fairly in dealings with the English. Karcich also discusses Rousseau's legacy, both in personal and political terms, into the twenty-first century. As Karcich ably demonstrates, Rousseau was a leading player in the transition from the French-dominated fur trade, which did not favour settlement getting in the way of hunting and trading, to an English regime focused on the commercial enterprises that could only be established alongside the settlement necessary for labour and markets. He managed to walk in many worlds and leave his mark while doing so.

## THE MODEL VILLAGE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SUCCESS: A HISTORY OF ELORA, ONTARIO



STEPHEN THORNING, EDITED BY ELYSIA DELAURENTIS

Fergus: Wellington County Historical Society, 2023  
[magicpebblebooks.ca](http://magicpebblebooks.ca)

Many academic historians knew Stephen Thorning as the foremost historian of Elora and Wellington County, but he especially made his mark as "Mr.

"FROM THE BOOKSHELF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

Elora,” the man who wrote popular history columns for the press, appeared on radio and TV as an expert voice about the village, actively participated in local history societies, and even served in public office as a councillor and deputy reeve. Thorning died, far too young, in 2015. No one who knew Steve Thorning and his work has forgotten him, but the unpublished and incomplete manuscript that he began in the 1980s, with every intention of finishing in time for Elora’s 150th anniversary celebration in 1982, languished in storage boxes for years. He returned to several of its topics later, many published in other venues, especially his longstanding “Valuing Our History” columns in local and regional newspapers. No one knows precisely why he never completed the shelved project that this publication represents.

This beautifully produced book owes its existence, then, to a number of people in the Elora community who worked hard to see Thorning’s project through after his untimely passing. This was not just a matter of editing, updating, and filling in from notes, though that was an enormous undertaking. First came the job of digitizing his typed notes, undertaken by the book’s editor, Elysia DeLaurentis, along with his sister Susan Thorning and the late Helen Aitken. As DeLaurentis relates in her preface, the Wellington County Historical Society, which provided funding along with private donors, set up a publishing committee to oversee the complex project. She produced the preface and afterword, as well as editing, filling in, and effectively bringing the book to production. In her words, Thorning’s manuscript “became the aging cloth onto which I stitched and interwove portions of his later work...augmenting it with illustrations, and where needed, additional material”. She also makes the entirely reasonable point that, while the text has been updated, to honour Thorning’s initial approach, it reflects the historical writing of the early 1980s, which was oriented to political and economic development and therefore focused on white, middle-class men.

The book showcases Thorning’s considerable skill in historical research, analysis, and writing. There are 24 detailed chapters, clearly laid out, densely informative, and a pleasure to read. He begins by charting the town’s early history through its predominant slogans, a trait of Victorian-era town-building and civic boosterism: The City of the Falls, The City of Rocks, The Metropolis of Pilkington, The Model Village. Each slogan captured the town-builders’ vision of its future rather than what it was at that moment, but they were not fantastical views. These men were projecting from the town’s considerable resources, as indicated by successive waves of land development, new settlement, agricultural development, and mill and railway construction. As Thorning contends, only the model village concept, derived from the early nineteenth century flurry of British and American “town planning” that was entirely conceivable in a colonial Canada barely on its way to urbanization, “retain[ed] any vitality.” The Victorian businessmen who were the town leaders “would still point to the village as a standard for small urban centres and a model for other villages to emulate”. In that sense, from a contemporary perspective, elements of their vision persist despite changing notions of what constitutes a “model village”.

Ordinary people and ordinary lives come to life in Thorning’s chapter on “Taverns and Temperance,” as he explores the underside of ideal configurations like the model village. He demonstrates that, before the temperance movement made inroads during the century’s second half, the plentiful taverns were among the town’s primary businesses: “In Elora’s early years the tavern was vital and the drinking was hard,” and not just in public establishments. The subsequent two chapters discuss the late nineteenth century “refinement” of village society, with the construction of prominent buildings, the expansion of the churches, especially church-affiliated social organizations and sports clubs, the growth of first private and then public schools, as well as private and then public libraries. Civic pride and optimism then declined, largely, he charges, due to lack of vision on the part

of town leaders, as the model village ideal failed. By the 1920s, with the Great War and the Spanish Flu behind them, Elora had become “the archetypal quiet small town”.

This is where Thorning’s story closes. In her sensitive afterword, DeLaurentis observes that he had planned for 27 chapters. The concluding three were to cover the years from the Depression through the Second World War, and then up to the 150th anniversary in 1982. Later, she notes, he considered that 1999, the year that Elora, Fergus, and a number of other villages amalgamated into the Township of Centre Wellington, would make a more suitable endpoint. Whether he planned to or would have finished this project can never be known.

The editor selected a wide range of illustrations, with scarcely a page missing a reproduction of artwork, advertising, maps, town plans at various points in its history, pages of private writings, individual and family portraits, and photographs of everyday Elora, all reprinted in their original colour. The index is thorough, and Thorning’s original citations have been updated. Without doing the book any justice in my allotted space, I’m grateful to the Wellington Historical Society and Elysia DeLaurentis for putting Thorning’s masterwork together. It is a fitting tribute both to his skill and to the village he loved.

Attendees were provided with opportunities to network and exchange insights during a “Mix & Mingle” session, which was followed by a heritage bus tour. Participants visited The Delta Mill in Delta and the Chaffey’s Lock Museum in Chaffey’s Lock, were entertained by trivia created by beloved local historian, Sue Warren, and instructed about the importance of expanding historical discussions to include the rich and significant histories of the Indigenous Peoples of the area.

One of the key discussion points of the gathering was the historic significance of the Rideau Canal system. Recognized as an essential part of Ontario’s heritage, various stakeholders emphasized the importance of its preservation and the communities it supports.

Several representatives from different organizations shared their perspectives. George German, Interim Chair of the Municipal Advisory Heritage Committee, outlined the committee’s ongoing heritage projects. Mark Brus of Parks Canada highlighted community engagement in national preservation projects. Daniel Dishaw spoke of the Ontario Historical Society’s latest endeavours to safeguard Ontario’s heritage. During her remarks, Marie White, Economic and Heritage Development Coordinator of the Township of Rideau Lakes, emphasized the intersect between historical preservation and economic growth in the region.

The event underscored the dedication of various organizations and individuals toward heritage preservation in Ontario. With collaborations like these, the ongoing commitment to conserving and showcasing the province’s history remains evident.



Photo – Mary White

OHS ED Daniel Dishaw spoke at “Heritage Matters” in Elgin about the Society’s programs and services for heritage organizations and public institutions in Ontario.

The *OHS Bulletin* is the newsletter of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS).

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**Friday, November 3, 2023.**

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Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The *OHS Bulletin* is sent free of charge to all members of the OHS. The OHS’s biannual scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, is available to members for an additional \$36.75

per year; member organizations, institutions and non-member individuals for \$47.25; and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$57.75. Membership inquiries should be directed to Heather Anderson at [handerson@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:handerson@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

Inquiries about submissions and advertising: Daniel Dishaw, Executive Director, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2 416-226-9011 [ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca) [ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

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# OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 223

SEPTEMBER 2023

## NEWBORO & AREA HERITAGE SOCIETY HOSTS "HERITAGE MATTERS"

## OHS TO CELEBRATE 135 YEARS AT 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Members of the Newboro and Area Heritage Society (NAHS) met on June 26 to hold their public incorporation meeting with the local community. OHS ED Daniel Dishaw spoke about the importance of the incorporation program and the dedication of volunteers and heritage advocates like the members of the NAHS, which was incorporated through affiliation with the OHS on July 7. From left to right are: Mary White, member at large; Adam Ball, Treasurer; Dudley Hill, Fundraising Coordinator; Kathy Mussell, Secretary; Daniel Dishaw; Kim Lulashnyk, Chair; Joan White, member at large; and Ted Stewart, Vice Chair. Board members not pictured are: Diane Haskins, Colleen Bedore, and Lily Bedore.

**Kimberly Lulashnyk**, Chair, Newboro and Area Heritage Society  
[create@stonemanorstudios.ca](mailto:create@stonemanorstudios.ca)

The historic Red Brick School in Elgin served as the meeting point for several heritage organizations, local stakeholders, and the Ontario Historical Society on June 26, 2023. The gathering, "Heritage Matters: A Meet & Greet," was organized to highlight and discuss the ongoing efforts to preserve and promote the rich history of the Rideau Lakes region. Central to the event was the Newboro and Area Heritage Society's (NAHS) recent initiative to join the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) through incorporation. The Rideau Lakes Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee supported the event with the NAHS acting as hosts and organizers. The goal was twofold: firstly, to familiarize the recently appointed OHS Executive Director, Daniel Dishaw, with the region's heritage-focused efforts; and secondly, to provide a platform for heritage preservation organizations to connect with each other and allow stakeholders to share their experiences and challenges in the realm of heritage work.

"NEWBORO & AREA HERITAGE" CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

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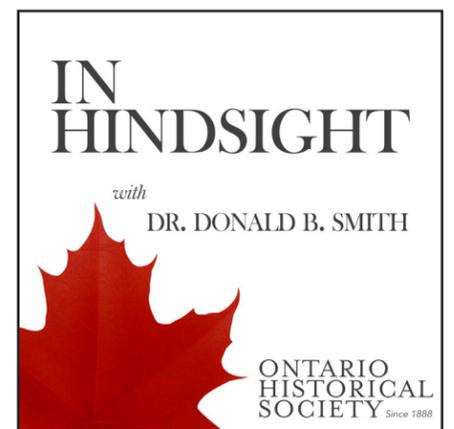


The Ontario Historical Society's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 135th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society will take place on Thursday, October 12, 2023, beginning at 7:00 pm EST.

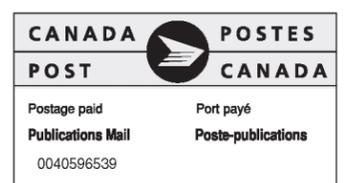
The AGM will once again be held virtually. We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our members who have been able to virtually attend our recent AGMs from all corners of Ontario.

Please call or email the OHS office to register for the 135th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at 416-226-9011 or [ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

This year, Dr. Donald B. Smith will deliver the keynote presentation, focussing on the process of synthesizing 50 years of research into a podcast series, as well as some of his favourite discoveries and topics featured in the 21-episode series. For more on Dr. Smith and the *In Hindsight* podcast, please visit the OHS website at [ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/podcasts/in-hindsight/](https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/podcasts/in-hindsight/).



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kristin Ives, President  
[kives@erca.org](mailto:kives@erca.org)

Hello. Bonjour. Boozhoo.

I hope each of you has enjoyed the bounty and beauty of the summer. Here in Essex County, the farm stands are full of fresh tomatoes, blueberries, peaches, gladiolas, and more. Communities around the province are surely celebrating the season with various festivals and fairs. At the John R. Park Homestead, we are preparing to participate in the Harrow Fair, hosted by the Colchester Agricultural Society since 1878. Summer is a wonderfully busy season for museums and historical societies – hosting special events and activities as they welcome families and other visitors from near and far. Summer students have been showcasing their new skills in exhibits, summer camp programs, and social media posts.

The Society has been busy, as well, hosting several events at the John McKenzie House over the past few months. In May, the OHS participated in Doors Open and welcomed roughly 1,000 visitors to the John McKenzie House. The event included partnering with three community organizations to animate the space, including local artists and musicians. The OHS has participated in Doors Open since its inception in 2000. This event provides a fantastic way for staff to connect with the local community. The OHS was also pleased to host an art exhibition by sculptor Lubo Brezina. His large-scale wood sculptures were a fixture at the John McKenzie House for five days in June, attracting fans of fine art from across the city.

The end of June is also a busy time administratively, as it is typically the time that provincial grants are due. Each year, the OHS supports its membership by assisting with their Heritage Organization Development Grant applications and writing letters of good standing. This year, staff supported the work of dozens of members from across the province as they applied for annual operating funding. Wishing all of our member organizations success in their various funding applications.

I'm very pleased to welcome all of our members to the 135th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society. More information about registration and our keynote speaker, Dr. Donald B. Smith, can be found in the article on page 1 of this *Bulletin*. I look forward to presenting on our 2022 Annual Report there.



Photo – Sarah McCabe

Long-time OHS donor and supporter Jamie Laidlaw visited the John McKenzie House for Doors Open 2023. He has been an incredible advocate for the Society for many years, and has personally donated both time and financial support to help the OHS modernize and reach new audiences. Jamie has helped the Society fundraise for its digitization and digital infrastructure projects, including the OHS website, the *Ontario History Journal* Archive, and OHS podcast production. Pictured above from left to right are OHS ED Daniel Dishaw, Jamie Laidlaw, and new OHS member and supporter, Philip Stern.

On behalf of the OHS Board of Directors and the Society's membership, I send our deepest condolences to family and friends of Kirk Howard. Kirk founded Dundurn Press and was an avid supporter of the OHS and a long-time friend and supporter of staff and members alike. Dundurn Press titles were frequently well reviewed and won numerous prizes, including many OHS book awards. Kirk's passion for local history is reflected in Dundurn's publishing tradition, which has featured so many books on Ontario's history. Kirk will be remembered fondly by many of our members and subscribers across the province. Barry Penhale, OHS member, *Bulletin* columnist, and longtime friend of Kirk Howard delivers a full tribute to Kirk on page 4.

I also want to pay tribute to long-time OHS member and perennial volunteer, Jeanne Hopkins, who passed away peacefully on July 13 at age 84. A historian of North York and Willowdale, Jeanne was a wonderful person to work with who contributed so much of her time and energy to the Ontario Historical Society and the North York Historical Society throughout her many years of membership. She will be greatly missed by OHS staff and by so many of our members.

All my best,  
Kristin

# ONTARIO HISTORY

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**VOL. 115, No. 2  
AUTUMN 2023**

*"It is a Glorious Cause and I Will Die for It" - William Alves*  
by Chris Raible

*The Patriot War Letters of W.W. Dodge to Dr. Charles Osgood*  
by Robert Beasecker

*Niagara County, New York: Its Role in the Patriot War*  
by Bruce D. Aikin

*Patriots, Publishers, and Hunters Respond to the Rebellion and Patriot War, 1837-1841*  
by Josh Steedman

*The Patriot Press and their Paper Tiger, 1836-1842*  
by Stephen R.I. Smith

*The Family Life That John Berry Had But Never Experienced*  
by Cozy Venable Palmer and Michael W. Kehoe

*Hiram Sharp: A Life Changed by the Battle of the Windmill*  
by Terrance Patterson

*The Many Lives of James Milne Aitchison*  
by Ian Hundey

*Chauncey Sheldon, a Survivor of the 1838 Patriot War*  
by John C. Carter

*The 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion/Patriot War and its Aftermath*

## ONTARIO HISTORY

AUTUMN 2023

Scheduled to reach *Ontario History* subscribers in November, the 2023 Autumn issue features nine new peer-reviewed articles:

**"It is a Glorious Cause and I Will Die for It" — William Alves**  
by Chris Raible

**"Remember Me to Friends If I Have Any":  
The Patriot War Letters of W.W. Dodge to Dr. Charles Osgood**  
by Robert Beasecker

**Niagara County, New York: Its Role in the Patriot War**  
by Bruce D. Aikin

**Rumours, Ruffians, and the U.S.-Upper Canada Border: Patriots, Publishers,  
and Hunters Respond to the Upper Canadian Rebellion and Patriot War,  
1837-1841**  
by Josh Steedman

**The Patriot Press and their Paper Tiger:  
Community Formation and Allusions to the Patriot Hunters, 1836-1842**  
by Stephen R.I. Smith

**The Family Life That John Berry Had But Never Experienced**  
by Cozy Venable Palmer and Michael W. Kehoe

**Hiram Sharp: A Life Changed by the Battle of the Windmill**  
by Terrance Patterson

**The Many Lives of James Milne Aitchison, a Battle of Windsor Raider**  
by Ian Hundey

**The Long Odyssey of Chauncey Sheldon, a Survivor of the 1838 Patriot War: His Story**  
by John C. Carter

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Please visit our website for subscriptions to the journal:  
[ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/ontario-history-journal/](http://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/ontario-history-journal/).

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Daniel Dishaw, Executive Director  
[ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

Since our last edition of the *Bulletin*, I have been pleased to participate in so many great events and meetings with our members across Ontario. I travelled to eastern Ontario in July to meet with our newest affiliated organization, the Newboro and Area Heritage Society (NAHS), which incorporated through affiliation with the OHS on July 7, 2023.

NAHS will seek to collect, study, preserve, convey, and celebrate the rich history of Newboro and area. Its aims and objectives are to conserve the area's cultural resources; to promote and facilitate fundraising activities to achieve its mission; to preserve, interpret, exhibit, and communicate the histories, artifacts, and cultures of Newboro and area; and to improve public understanding and awareness of these diverse histories through events, displays, exhibitions, and by providing access to relevant archival material.

The OHS Board of Directors and staff are pleased to welcome this new group to the Ontario Historical Society. In her lead article for this edition of the *Bulletin*, NAHS Chair Kimberly Lulashnyk goes into detail about our meetings on June 26 and all of the fantastic collaboration happening in the heritage community of the Rideau Lakes region. Congratulations to the members of the NAHS and kudos to all the hard-working heritage advocates I had the pleasure of meeting during my visit to the area in June.

After the meet-and-greet, I was given a five-star tour of the area's rich heritage landscape, visiting significant historic sites in several towns. A school bus served as our transport for the day—a blast of nostalgia that I won't soon forget. I was also treated to an excellent meal at the Stirling Lodge in Newboro. If you're travelling through the area, I would absolutely recommend you book a stay or stop in for a meal. The owners are avid heritage advocates and have done an incredible job of maintaining and preserving the historic lodge. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make my visit so welcoming, productive, and educational.

I visited a few more of our members and member organizations as I passed through eastern Ontario, including the Lost Villages Museum in Long Sault. This museum boasts an impressive collection of recovered artifacts, buildings, and archival documents relating to the twelve lost communities that existed along the St. Lawrence River prior to the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project in the late 1950s.

Life member and long-time supporter of the OHS, Jim Brownell is the President of the Lost Villages Historical Society (LVHS) that operates the museum. I was pleased to meet with Jim and David Hill (of the LVHS) for a tour of the relocated buildings from the Lost Villages now housed at Ault Park. The museum site at Ault Park consists of ten heritage buildings that were moved and restored from The Lost Villages and surrounding townships by the members of The Lost Villages Historical Society. Both the interiors and exteriors of the buildings have been restored, and they have been assembled in a village-like setting in the park. My own family traces our roots back to this part of the province, so it was a real pleasure to visit this site and learn more about our history. Jim goes into detail about our visit together in his article below, and makes mention of my grandfather, Frank Dishaw, who was the first Captain of the Great Lakes freighter named Carol Lake. As it happens, that ship was built and launched in Collingwood in 1960. The lead article in the Museum Milestones column (page 5), submitted by Melissa Shaw, touches on the unique history of shipbuilding in Collingwood. It's always so satisfying to make these connections in our history!

On July 26 I travelled to Canfield to meet OHS Cemeteries and Preservation Committee Co-Chair Janie Cooper-Wilson and Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) Inspector Andrew Reynolds to participate in a joint site

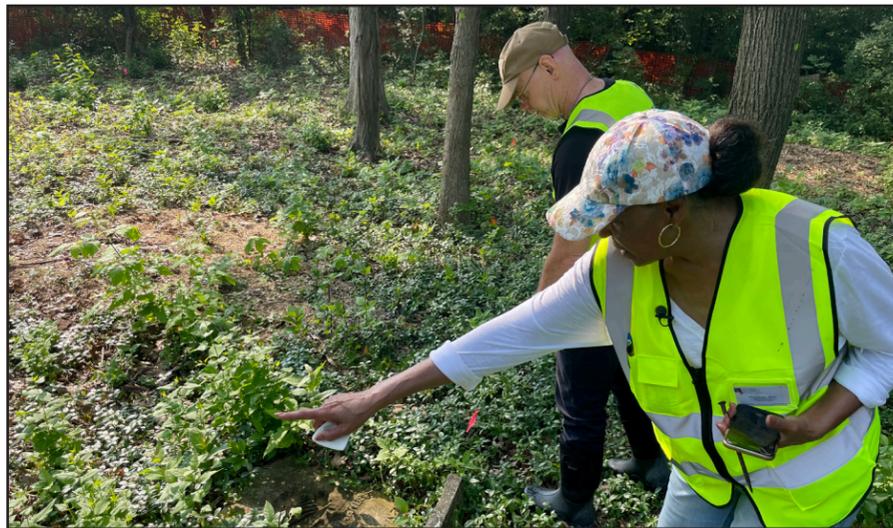


Photo – Daniel Dishaw

Pictured above are OHS Preservation and Cemeteries Committee Co-Chair Janie Cooper-Wilson and BAO Inspector Andrew Reynolds identifying grave shafts and markers during a recent joint inspection of the Street Family Cemetery in Canfield, Haldimand County.

inspection of the Street Family Cemetery in Haldimand. Haldimand County has recently invested in the restoration and cleanup of this historic site, the final resting place of Harriet Tubman's niece, Caroline "Carrie" Stewart, who fled the United States in search of freedom, ultimately settling in Canfield. Filmmaker Graeme Bachiu and his crew were on site to document the process and interview representatives about the important work being done to restore the cemetery. Bachiu's documentary series on the history of this cemetery and the descendant community, *Canfield Roots*, won the 2021 OHS President's Award. The OHS is committed to ensuring that cemeteries in Ontario are preserved and protected on behalf of the public interest. It was fantastic to see the BAO and the OHS working together toward that common goal, and I was pleased to see all the work Haldimand County has done to restore the site. We look forward to seeing that great work continue.

My predecessor, Rob Leverty, was an incredible advocate for cemetery preservation as Executive Director of the OHS. I know our members and donors appreciate all the work Rob has done, and many of you recently made donations to the OHS "In honour of Rob Leverty" to express that gratitude. I want to thank you all on behalf of Rob and the OHS staff for your generosity and your continued support of the organization.

In the next few months, we have much to look forward to. Our AGM is approaching and I'm excited to meet with all of you then. I know Don Smith will give a fascinating and engaging talk on all the research and recording that went into producing *In Hindsight: Half A Century of Discoveries in Canadian Research* for the OHS.

OHS staff and Willowdale residents are excited about some new restoration work that will soon be under way at the historic John McKenzie House: The Stable, Coach House, and Milk House will be getting some attention from heritage restoration experts this fall. Staff will be documenting the process to share with our members. We also have some great community events coming up at the John McKenzie House this season, including an artisan market, a theatrical collective event, and several meetings of OHS members and other local not-for-profits. Staff are pleased to support all the programming and community engagement happening at the John McKenzie House.

I'm also pleased to be attending the National Trust Conference in Ottawa this October. My colleague, Sarah McCabe will join me. OHS staff and board members are always delighted to attend conferences and other collaborative events across the province. I'll be out on the road again this fall to meet with more of our members and prospective affiliates, a privilege I always look forward to. I hope you all enjoy the fall season. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

All my best,  
Daniel

## OHS VISIT TO THE LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM

Jim Brownell, President, Lost Villages Historical Society

On Tuesday, June 27, 2023, Nancy and David Hill and I were pleased to welcome three members of the Dishaw family, Dwight, Alexis, and Daniel, home to their roots in the lands of the "Lost Villages". Daniel's father, grandparents, and generations of Dishaw family members before them lived in and around the Lost Village of Dickinson's Landing, Ontario.

The first stop was the Ontario Power Generation Saunders Visitor Centre at Cornwall, where the Dishaw and Hill family members viewed the iconic film: *From Dream to Reality*—Ontario Power Generation's story of the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Projects, completed in

1958. Our guests viewed diagrams and photos depicting the history of the St. Lawrence Seaway before and after all the relocation.

Next on the agenda was a short drive to the village of St. Andrews West for a visit to a historic cemetery where the famous Canadian explorer Simon Fraser and John Sandfield Macdonald, the first Premier of Ontario (1867 to 1871) lie buried.

The highlight of the day was the visit to the [Lost Villages Historical Society's museum at Ault Park, South Stormont](#). As President of the Lost Villages Historical Society, I welcomed the Dishaw and Hill families to the



David Hill of the LVHS holds up a photo of Mille Roches before the relocation and eventual flooding of the town to make way for the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project.

"LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM" CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...

## REMEMBERING KIRK HOWARD 1943-2023

Barry Penhale  
[barry@naturalheritagebooks.com](mailto:barry@naturalheritagebooks.com)

On June 30, John Kirk Howard passed away at age 80. Always courteous and smartly attired, he stood out in any gathering, be it at home in his beloved Canada or abroad on international book business. Kirk made friends easily and earned the highest regard from fellow members of the book trade.

As a friend and colleague of Kirk's, I think it only fitting to respectfully remember the many ways Kirk Howard was a Canadian publishing pioneer, a member of a select group that includes only a handful of others, with indie publishers Jack David and James Lorimer immediately coming to mind. Through this trio's dedication and hard work, they proved it was possible to thrive in spite of the constant challenges confronting Canada's independent presses. To Kirk and others go kudos for their not easily achieved longevity in an always topsy-turvy field. Because of them, book enthusiasts across the country and beyond enjoy an impressive number of quality Canadian published books, and have been introduced to some fine writers they may otherwise have missed. With Kirk Howard at the helm, many Dundurn titles were published that reinforced his personal passion for Canadian history. It must have delighted Kirk greatly that when Ontario Historical Society book reviewers Chris and Pat Raible were retiring, they recognized hundreds of books received for review, but singled out only three presses by name: University of Toronto Press, Dundurn Press, and Natural Heritage Books. The latter being the small press I founded, which later merged with Dundurn.

Bright with a rapier-like wit, his interests beyond publishing included genealogy and British royalty, subjects often covered during his 47 years in the book business. To his delight, Dundurn imprinted titles were frequently well reviewed and won numerous prizes, including many titles reflecting the publisher's passion for Canada. A past president of the Association of Canadian Publishers and the Ontario Book Publishers Organization, Kirk was invested into the Order of Canada in 2019. As sociable as they come, he was a long-time member of the Arts and Letters Club, which he frequented often until health issues dictated otherwise.

I took it as the ultimate compliment when, upon becoming one of his associates, Kirk said it was as if he was returning to his own publishing roots.



Photo—Dundurn Press—Ian Payton

By then, Dundurn had evolved into our largest solely-owned Canadian press. But Kirk missed the kind of publishing I had become known for, the kind that had been the norm for him during his earlier years in publishing. Fortunately, the Dundurn publishing board, on which my wife Jane and I sat, found favour with book proposals that reminded one and all about Dundurn's ongoing role in telling stories about our local history. Documenting important chapters of the past is, in my estimation, central to the considerable legacy Kirk Howard has left behind.

Having sold Dundurn Press in 2019, an ailing Kirk was to spend his remaining years at his Lake Simcoe condo. Kirk Howard will be greatly missed by many.

## EMANCIPATION DAY 2023

Daniel Dishaw, Executive Director  
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I was pleased to be invited to the Ontario Black History Society's (OBHS) Emancipation Day Celebration at Fort York National Historic Site in Toronto. My colleague Sarah McCabe was also in attendance to support our friends and members at the OBHS.

The performances and presentations were fantastic as always. I was especially moved by Leslie McCurdy's one-woman play, *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman*, which uses Harriet's own words in telling the story of her life from her earliest experiences as a slave, through her work on the Underground Railroad, to her continued commitment to others in her later years. The play was fantastic, and it was a privilege to meet Leslie McCurdy and speak with



At Fort York on Emancipation Day, 2023. From left to right are OHS ED Daniel Dishaw, actor and playwright Leslie McCurdy, and OBHS President Dorothy Abbott.

her after the performance. McCurdy has been performing *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman* for more than 25 years.

I was also pleased to be reunited with many friends and OHS members at the OBHS celebration on August 1. After the conclusion of the program, I had an opportunity to chat with everyone. Pancheta Barnett, President of the East York Historical Society, approached me with a request: to submit a letter of reflection on what Emancipation Day means to me personally. My response was included in a community display by the East York Historical Society on the theme of "Exploring Emancipation" at Todmorden Mills in Toronto. This was my response:



Daniel and Pancheta Barnett at Fort York National Historic Site on Emancipation Day, 2023.

*On August 1, we gather to commemorate the liberation of more than 800,000 enslaved Africans in Canada, the Caribbean, South America, and South Africa. For hundreds of years, people of African descent suffered horrendous acts of hate and violence as a result of the slave trade. On Emancipation Day, we reflect on the destructive and painful legacy of slavery in Canada while celebrating the remarkable strength and determination of those who fought for their freedom.*

*We also gather to celebrate the irreplaceable contributions and achievements of Black Canadians throughout our nation's history. We celebrate Emancipation Day with Black music, art, performance, and thought—the irrefutable evidence that an incredible culture and spirit endured through generations of oppression and discrimination. We gather to emphasize that Black history does not begin or end with the history of slavery.*

*In reflecting on the history of slavery in Canada, we must also acknowledge the lasting impacts, the intergenerational harm, and the continued fight for equity and inclusion. We must address the inequalities and the racism still prevalent in our society today.*

*At the OHS, we are privileged to work with so many of our member organizations who endeavour to preserve and promote Black culture and history here in Ontario. I'm honoured to be able to support this important work as I continue to listen and learn. I encourage everyone to learn more about this important part of our collective history and how we can move forward together.*

Sincerely,  
Daniel Dishaw

## MUSEUM MILESTONES

**Dr. John Carter**  
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This issue's lead Museum Milestones article is by Melissa Shaw, Museum Supervisor at the Collingwood Museum. In it, she describes the innovative programs and activities offered there. Collingwood is located in a four-season vacation area, so drop by throughout the year and have a visit.

The Ontario museum community has recently lost several long-standing supporters. Hazen Price passed away at the age of 99. He was one of the founders of the Amherstburg Historic Sites Association, and a long-time executive member of the Park House Museum. He was responsible for saving built heritage in Amherstburg, including the Park House and the Gordon House. He was also one of the first tin smiths at the Park House, and taught many others this craft. Hazen will be greatly missed in Amherstburg and in Essex County.

Ted Douglas died in his 94th year in Windsor. He taught the first group of tinsmiths at the Park House, and later was an active volunteer at the Canadian Aviation Museum in Windsor. A celebration of Ted's life was held there on July 23.

Earl Iler passed on at the age of 97. He was a long-time supporter and volunteer at the John R. Park Homestead (JRPH). As a neighbour, with his home and farm directly across from the JRPH, Earl was of great assistance to me at the Homestead during my time there as curator from 1977 to 1980. He was buried in the Iler Cemetery. Condolences to the Iler family.

After 29 years of service at the Guelph Museums, where she carried out various duties and held several positions, Val Harrison recently retired. Museum staff held a retirement party for her before her departure. All the best Val!

Sad news from the Township of Black River-Matheson. Municipal Council there has voted to close the museum, dissolve the museum committee, and sell the building. The Black River Matheson Museum was first opened in 1973. Thelma Miles was the driving force behind this site for many years, and the museum eventually was re-named the Thelma Miles Museum in her honour. For input from the municipality, contact Mayor Doug Bender at [mayor@twpbrm.ca](mailto:mayor@twpbrm.ca), or Clerk/Treasurer Cassandra Child at [cchild@twpbrm.ca](mailto:cchild@twpbrm.ca).

To end on a positive note, I am happy to announce that the Dr. John C. Carter Award in Museum Studies, has been awarded for the first time at the University of Leicester, England, and the initial recipient was Danielle Megaffin, of Tantallon, Nova Scotia. She plans to use the award to assist in travelling to do research for her Ph.D. thesis. Congratulations, Danielle. For further information or enquiries about this bursary, please contact [museum@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:museum@leicester.ac.uk). This award is open to all Canadian students registered for post-graduate candidates in Museum Studies, at the University of Leicester.

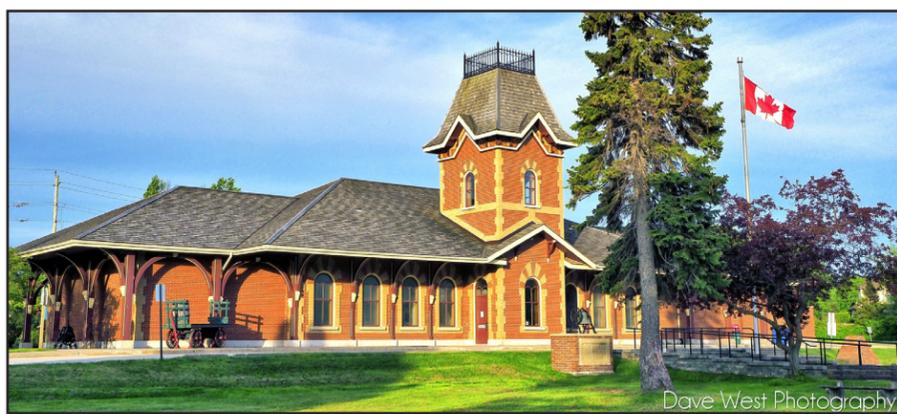
## HERITAGE APPAREL LINE A BIG HIT FOR THE COLLINGWOOD MUSEUM

**Melissa Shaw**, Museum Supervisor, Collingwood Museum

The Collingwood Museum's long history of collecting dates back to the establishment of the Huron Institute in 1904. Housed in the basement of the local Carnegie library, the early museum featured exhibits from its five departments: Zoology, Botany, Geology, History, and Civic Development. The Institute's leader, David Williams, spearheaded the publication of three volumes of essays, biographies, and a historic catalogue. The latter documents the Institute's extensive collection of local and marine photographs and continues to be the museum's most accessed publication.

In 1963, a devastating fire struck the Carnegie library. Surprisingly, most of the Institute's collections survived with varying degrees of water damage. The Town of Collingwood stepped in to take ownership of the early collection and purchased the CN railway station as a permanent home for the collection. The Collingwood Museum officially opened in 1966 and hasn't looked back.

In 1998, the original CN station was replaced with a new building inspired by Collingwood's original and stunning 1873 railway station. Unlike the museum of the past, the Collingwood Museum limits its collecting efforts to the Town of Collingwood's history. The most asked-after collections, particularly photographs, continue to be those originally collected by the Huron Institute.



Until 2020, operation of the Collingwood Museum was stable and included the typical responsibilities of programming, collections management, and exhibition development. Everything changed in March 2020. In the face of pandemic closures and gradual re-openings, museum staff was challenged to engage with the community in new and exciting ways. For at least a decade, staff had been discussing the idea of creating branded t-shirts. With the museum closed, staff decided to launch a cheeky line of history-themed apparel to raise awareness about the museum and Collingwood's past. A museum without visitors is a very gloomy space, so to keep our collective spirits high, we dove headfirst into the design process to make our vision a reality.

The first design launched on March 8, 2021—International Women's Day—and featured a black-and-white photograph from the archives of eight

women welders from the World War Two era of shipbuilding in Collingwood. Emblazoned beneath the portrait was the phrase "This is Women's Work". The initial run was a sellout success and we quickly ordered more. By the end of 2021, the shirts had made their way across the province, country, and into the United States. Entire families were being outfitted with the design as a celebration of their relative's achievements. Receiving a photograph of one of the original welders wearing her shirt was a distinct pleasure for staff—she was just 17 years of age when the photograph was taken in 1943. As well, a photograph collage of an entire family outfitted in the design was shared with staff by a descendant of one of the featured welders (photo shown below).



At a time when in-person visits with family and friends were restricted, or outright banned, the Collingwood Museum had successfully sparked memories and conversations across generations. Taking orders by phone allowed staff to connect with community members and the welders' descendants in ways that we could not have anticipated. So, of course, we wanted to do it again.

The second, even cheekier, design officially launched on May 18, 2021—International Museum Day. Shipbuilding is also a cherished memory from Collingwood's recent past, so a design paying homage to this history would be another homerun with the perfect design. The result was the "Get Your Ship Together in Collingwood" slogan and its pairing with a photograph of a newly built warship, a corvette, in Collingwood's harbour. Like its predecessor, the new design was met with great enthusiasm and became a must-have for former shipyard workers and their descendants, community members at large, and visitors to the area. Very quickly, the "Ship Together" design became our bestselling gift shop item and a spectacular way of promoting both the Collingwood Museum and our community's unique history.

The possibilities for reimagining local history in fun and refreshing ways are endless. Moving forward, we hope to expand on this exciting and successful marketing initiative with many more designs. As with all things, however, time and resources will be determining factors as we work to balance pre-COVID expectations and operations with initiatives largely born of pandemic closures.

To learn more about the Collingwood Museum and its exciting initiatives, visit [collingwood.ca/museum](http://collingwood.ca/museum).

## BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

### DETECTIVE JOHN WILSON MURRAY & THE BLENHEIM SWAMP MURDER

Barry Penhale

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When I was a toddler with hard-working parents building a business of their own, I spent considerable time at my paternal grandparents' home in the Junction district of Toronto. Though I was her grandson, I believe my grandmother, Lucy (Sanders) Penhale (b. 1881), thought of me as yet another son in a rather large brood that included my father. My grandma and my grandpa, Richard "Dick" Penhale, were both from the Exeter area, with similar Huron County farm backgrounds. I tell you this because it would be almost impossible for Ontarians of their era, and especially rural-raised folks, to not be aware of what was often labelled "The Birchall-Benwell Affair." One of my lingering memories from childhood is a precious time at my grandmother's side in the kitchen at 295 Keele Street, when "Maw," (as she was endearingly known to the family) would spontaneously begin singing (unaccompanied) the lyrics to a ditty she knew by heart. I think she would have been barely into her fifties when I first heard her sing the folk song inspired by a tragedy and a celebrated murder trial that was headline news when she herself was still a youngster. It was titled "The Ballad of J.R. Birchall." Here are the lyrics:

Come all you tender Christians, wherever you may be,  
I pray you pay attention to these few words from me;  
On the fourteenth of November, I am condemned to die  
For the murder of F.C. Benwell—upon a scaffold high.

My name is J.R. Birchall – that name I'll not deny,  
I leave my aged parents, in sorrow for to die;  
For little did they think that in my youth and bloom  
I'd be taken to the scaffold to meet an awful doom.

Now Benwell was an Englishman, who had not yet a wife,  
He came out here to Canada to seek an honest life,  
They said that I betrayed him unto a certain spot,  
And there with a revolver poor Benwell, he was shot.

I tried to play off innocent, but found it would not do;  
The evidence being against me, it proved I had no show.  
The judge he gave the sentence, the clerk he wrote it down,  
And to the scaffold I must go to meet my fearful doom.

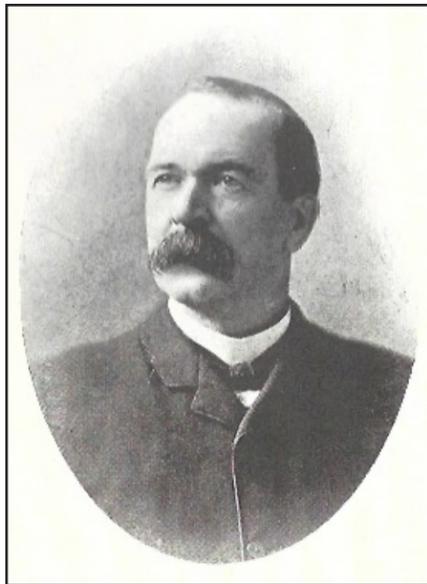
My friends they came to see me, to take their last farewell;  
They seemed most broken-hearted to see me in my cell—  
Saying, "Comrades, darling comrades, why shed those tears for me,  
For when tomorrow's sun shall set, from troubles I'll be free."

My wife she came to see me to take her last farewell,  
She said it was heart-rending to leave me in my cell—  
She said, "My dearest husband, you know that you must die  
For the murder of F.C. Benwell, upon a scaffold high."

It was nine o'clock in the morning, I knew my doom was near;  
I bid farewell to all on earth, to friends and loved ones dear.  
The last few words were spoken, the words "Thy will be done."  
The trap-door was now opened, and Birchall, he was hanged.

The accused was a handsome Oxford University-educated man by the name of Reginald Birchall, a vicar's son who during a stay in Woodstock had masqueraded as Lord Somerset, accompanied by his wife Florence, masquerading as Lady Somerset. The victim, a young man in his twenties, was uncovered in an Oxford County swamp near Woodstock, Ontario, on February 21, 1890. The discovery, made by two local woodcutters, led to a trial of major importance and furthered the already impressive reputation of the Ontario government's Chief Detective at the time, John Wilson Murray.

The Scottish-born John Wilson Murray (portrait shown here) followed his father when he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1857. It was during his naval career that he discovered a plot to free 4,000 Confederate prisoners from an island prison in Lake Erie. This experience prompted him to leave a life at sea and pursue a career in policing. In time, he became Head of Detectives of the Canadian Southern Railway, bringing him north to Canada. Attorney General Oliver Mowat was so impressed by John Murray as to

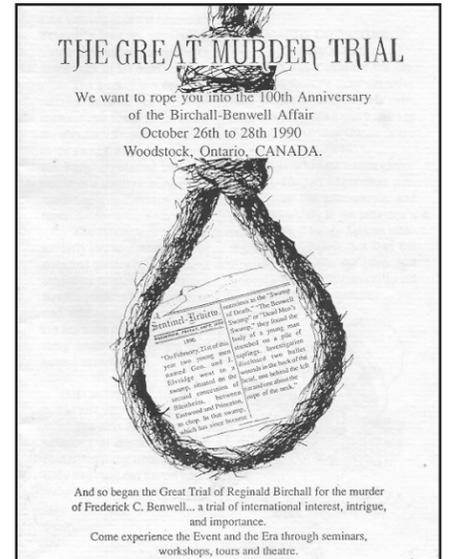


appoint him Provincial Detective of Ontario in 1874. Much ahead of his time in scientific investigation, John Wilson Murray became internationally known and some 33 of his most famous cases make up the contents of his book, *Memoirs of a Great Canadian Detective*, originally published in 1904 and reprinted in 1977 and 1978 by Collins Publishers, Toronto. Though the legendary detective died in Toronto in 1906, he lives on as the central character in the best-selling books by noted Canadian author Maureen Jennings. Yes, it was John Wilson Murray's career that inspired the creation of the extraordinarily popular fictional Detective William Murdoch, so very well known today as the central figure in both the book series and the television show.

No one charged with a crime in Canada up to that time had attracted the amount of interest as did Reginald Birchall. The case even attracted attention in Europe. Cable connections put in place made it possible for the proceedings in the Woodstock Court House to be fed directly to London, UK. Not only English newspapers but their counterparts in France, Italy, and Germany published reams of copy concerning the trial.

Detective Murray, having had the remains of Frederick Benwell photographed, saw to it that engravings made from the photographs were circulated to the press. This marked the first time that a victim's likeness had appeared in Ontario newspapers to aid with an investigation. Already, Detective John Wilson Murray was making forensic history.

In preparation for writing this article, I came across my souvenir program marking the 100th anniversary of The Birchall-Benwell Affair (pictured here). The huge organizational efforts of a Birchall Committee comprised of prominent Oxford County personalities made possible a marvellous three-day gathering in Woodstock during the month of October 1990. Tours and theatre were focused, as never before or since I believe, on this great murder trial of yesteryear. Coordinated by an old friend, Sheila M. Johnson, the organizing team did themselves proud. Everything was so very special but for many in attendance the play "Swamp Murders" was a particular highlight. The production, presented by Woodstock Little Theatre, featured the drama written by Bill Butt whose contributions to the cultural life of Oxford County remain unprecedented. Perhaps the time is right for a revival.



### ...“LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



A few of the historic buildings open to the public at Ault Park.

Lost Villages Museum site and provided a tour and background information on the formation of the Lost Villages Historical Society and Museum. While at the Forbes Memorial Reading Room, site of the Lost Villages Archives, the Dishaw family members were able to see the coat and cap that once belonged to Daniel's grandfather, Frank Dishaw, a Great Lakes captain.

Following a discussion about the archival collection in the Forbes Memorial Reading Room, a short walk along the boardwalk outside the archives brought us to the Stuart house, a restored home depicting life in the 1950s. This house, built in 1810, is the site where the Lost Villages Historical Society was formed in 1977. Having been moved from Wales to the north end of the Stuart farm at the time of the Hydro relocations in the 1950s, the house was donated to the historical society in 2004 and opened as a museum in 2008. Our visitors marvelled at the amazing collection of artifacts from the families and homes of the Lost Villages.

David and Nancy escorted the Dishaws on a short walk to the west end of Ault Park, where David proudly showed them his grandfather's barber shop, an incredible building relocated from Moulinette and then donated to the Lost Villages Historical Society.

There is a strong family connection between the Dishaw and Hill families. Daniel's grandmother was Ethel (Abrams) Dishaw (1926-1993), the sister to Nancy Hill's mother, Beatrice (Abrams) Eastman (1927-1997).

While the visit to Eastern Ontario and the Lost Villages Museum was much too short, the Dishaw family and all others are always welcome to visit our museum site at Ault Park.



Pictured above (left to right) are Daniel Dishaw, LVHS President Jim Brownell, and David Hill, LVHS.

## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio

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Summer is a busy season, but most of us take some sort of break from our everyday jobs and domestic routines. It's also a busy season for holidays, old and new, marking significant events in our shared past. Mostly we appreciate the "holiday" element even without active participation in festivities; rarely do we think about the historic elements. In truth, even though some commemorations appear to have recently popped up on the calendar, they would not be commemorative in any true sense if they were not also historic in multiple ways.

Some of the oldest go back to the days before the signal summer holiday, Canada Day, and many date to the first quarter century after Confederation. Launching the summer holiday parade in what is actually late spring, Victoria Day, celebrating the monarch's 24th of May birthday since her own times (1837-1901), was declared a holiday by the Legislature of the Province of Canada in 1845. After her death in 1901, the Parliament of Canada made it a legal holiday across the land. Confederation celebrates the official union of the British North American provinces, which took effect on the first of July 1867. Informal local celebrations were formalized by federal law in 1879, when it was declared a statutory holiday as the "anniversary of Confederation," popularly called "Dominion Day," reflecting the language of the predominantly British Victorians who struck up the deal. Testimonies from the time suggest that Victoria Day was more widely and jubilantly celebrated than Dominion Day, which might explain the 1879 law. "Dominion Day" stuck for nearly a century. In 1982, reflecting new political developments, the name was officially changed with the passing of the Constitution Act and a tweak to the national Holidays Act—though, thanks to procedural squabbling (and some public controversy), this was accomplished the week after that year's celebration, the last Dominion Day ever. Some Canadians are still upset.

More recently, days of acknowledgement and reflection rather than "holidays" in the celebratory sense have been either inaugurated or at least formalized by provincial and federal governments. The First Peoples of the land had much reason to celebrate their survival and make their contributions known when their organizations politicized and began to lobby for a national day of remembrance and recognition during the 1980s. Much of the public pressure for this commemoration has to do with the constitutional repatriation and the new Charter of Rights in 1982, reinforced by the recommendations of the hallmark 1995 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. In 1996, then Governor General Roméo LeBlanc announced the "Proclamation Declaring June 21 of Each Year as National Aboriginal Day," and all of June was designated as National Aboriginal History Month in 2009. Both names were changed to use the preferred term "Indigenous" in 2017.

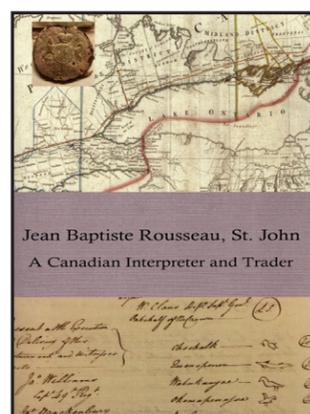
Canadian Multiculturalism Day is the 27th of June, saluting Canadian cultural diversity, by no means a new development but one that also became a matter of national identity under Pierre Elliott Trudeau's direction, when multiculturalism became Liberal government policy (1971); with the Constitution and Charter; and with the Mulroney Multiculturalism Act (1988), although the holiday was not designated until 2002. The national importance of Francophone historic contributions and culture is acknowledged with Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day on the 24th of June. Although officially the National Feast of Quebec, it is celebrated in many francophone communities in Ontario and across a nation in which ten million people speak French and even more can claim French heritage. This includes the Métis and the Acadians, who are regionally dispersed. Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day was mandated in Quebec in 1834, the same year as the national Victoria Day holiday. In 1881, again in Victoria's reign, Acadian Day was mandated at the first national convention of Acadians in New Brunswick; it was made a national holiday in 2003.

Even the most recent "holidays" have historic roots. July is Pride Month in support and celebration of the rights of the 2SLGBTQI+ community, but it began in gay rights protests in 1971, when the first demonstrations took place in Vancouver and Ottawa. By 1973, Pride events were being held in several Canadian cities. Waterloo was among the first, and Toronto's Pride weekend is now among the largest and most organized in North America.

The most recent national holiday, created with the unanimous vote of the House of Commons in 2021, designates the first of August as Emancipation Day to mark the anniversary of the Slavery Abolition Act that passed into law across the British Empire in 1834. John Graves Simcoe Day, celebrated on the first Monday in August, honours the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. More importantly, although Simcoe died before the abolition of slavery, he did manage to pass the first anti-slavery act in the British Empire, the Upper Canadian Act of 1793 Against Slavery, a significant step toward true emancipation and an impressive feat given the pro-slavery views of many important Upper Canadians.

A little history isn't a bad thing, even during summer holiday season. The books I'm looking at this month bring that point home to us. As it happens, I'm reviewing them on the first of August, which, in pagan times, long before any of the holidays mentioned, was called Lughnasadh. Drawn from Irish mythology, the day traditionally marked the midpoint of summer, between the summer solstice and the autumn equinox. A great time to read some good books before the regular seasonal pressures kick in!

## JEAN BAPTISTE ROUSSEAU ST. JOHN: A CANADIAN INTERPRETER AND TRADER



GRANT KARCICH

Red Handprint Press, 2023.

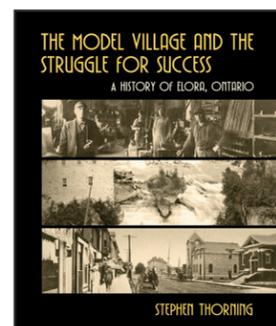
[redhandprintpress.ca](http://redhandprintpress.ca)

Grant Karcich wears a number of scholarly hats; he has degrees in Library and Information Sciences, has worked as a librarian and information sciences consultant, researches and publishes in history, archaeology and genealogy, and has published the works of other writers in these fields. His book, *The Legacy of Vanished Trails*, was reviewed in these pages a few years ago. Like that book, his most recent is multidisciplinary, reflecting his personal interests in historical biography, Indigenous cultures, and geography above all. His subject, the late eighteenth century trader Jean Baptiste Rousseau St. John, was also a man of many skills and interests. Although Rousseau was a lively presence in colonial North America, known and respected within and among its various French, English, and Indigenous sociocultural enclaves, there is little written about him aside from a somewhat-dated entry in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Charles M. Johnston, 1983).

Born in 1758 in Sault-au-Recollet near Montreal, the sixteen-year-old Rousseau, already experienced in the fur trade, on his way to becoming fluent in Ojibway and Iroquoian, and well-versed in English as well as his own language, was obliged to take over the care of his family when his father died suddenly. The elder Rousseau had been an important Quinte Bay fur trader and interpreter for the British Indian department, with which the teenager immediately sought work. His language fluency, his already considerable experience in the trade, his knowledge of the territory, his business acumen, and his seemingly innate gift for diplomacy, afforded him a lifelong career. He expanded into land acquisition and commerce as Upper Canada was increasingly populated by white settlers and the fur trade declined, along with the status of the First Nations at its centre. One of Ancaster's original settlers, Rousseau was involved in the development of Kingston, Hamilton, Toronto, and Brantford, and relocated his family to Toronto just as John Graves Simcoe moved his capital there.

Karcich tells the story of a historical figure seemingly involved in all aspects of a land in transition, highlighting his respect for Indigenous cultures and his attempts to represent their communities fairly in dealings with the English. Karcich also discusses Rousseau's legacy, both in personal and political terms, into the twenty-first century. As Karcich ably demonstrates, Rousseau was a leading player in the transition from the French-dominated fur trade, which did not favour settlement getting in the way of hunting and trading, to an English regime focused on the commercial enterprises that could only be established alongside the settlement necessary for labour and markets. He managed to walk in many worlds and leave his mark while doing so.

## THE MODEL VILLAGE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SUCCESS: A HISTORY OF ELORA, ONTARIO



STEPHEN THORNING, EDITED BY ELYSIA DELAURENTIS

Fergus: Wellington County Historical Society, 2023

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

Many academic historians knew Stephen Thorning as the foremost historian of Elora and Wellington County, but he especially made his mark as "Mr.

"FROM THE BOOKSHELF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

Elora,” the man who wrote popular history columns for the press, appeared on radio and TV as an expert voice about the village, actively participated in local history societies, and even served in public office as a councillor and deputy reeve. Thorning died, far too young, in 2015. No one who knew Steve Thorning and his work has forgotten him, but the unpublished and incomplete manuscript that he began in the 1980s, with every intention of finishing in time for Elora’s 150th anniversary celebration in 1982, languished in storage boxes for years. He returned to several of its topics later, many published in other venues, especially his longstanding “Valuing Our History” columns in local and regional newspapers. No one knows precisely why he never completed the shelved project that this publication represents.

This beautifully produced book owes its existence, then, to a number of people in the Elora community who worked hard to see Thorning’s project through after his untimely passing. This was not just a matter of editing, updating, and filling in from notes, though that was an enormous undertaking. First came the job of digitizing his typed notes, undertaken by the book’s editor, Elysia DeLaurentis, along with his sister Susan Thorning and the late Helen Aitken. As DeLaurentis relates in her preface, the Wellington County Historical Society, which provided funding along with private donors, set up a publishing committee to oversee the complex project. She produced the preface and afterword, as well as editing, filling in, and effectively bringing the book to production. In her words, Thorning’s manuscript “became the aging cloth onto which I stitched and interwove portions of his later work...augmenting it with illustrations, and where needed, additional material”. She also makes the entirely reasonable point that, while the text has been updated, to honour Thorning’s initial approach, it reflects the historical writing of the early 1980s, which was oriented to political and economic development and therefore focused on white, middle-class men.

The book showcases Thorning’s considerable skill in historical research, analysis, and writing. There are 24 detailed chapters, clearly laid out, densely informative, and a pleasure to read. He begins by charting the town’s early history through its predominant slogans, a trait of Victorian-era town-building and civic boosterism: The City of the Falls, The City of Rocks, The Metropolis of Pilkington, The Model Village. Each slogan captured the town-builders’ vision of its future rather than what it was at that moment, but they were not fantastical views. These men were projecting from the town’s considerable resources, as indicated by successive waves of land development, new settlement, agricultural development, and mill and railway construction. As Thorning contends, only the model village concept, derived from the early nineteenth century flurry of British and American “town planning” that was entirely conceivable in a colonial Canada barely on its way to urbanization, “retain[ed] any vitality.” The Victorian businessmen who were the town leaders “would still point to the village as a standard for small urban centres and a model for other villages to emulate”. In that sense, from a contemporary perspective, elements of their vision persist despite changing notions of what constitutes a “model village”.

Ordinary people and ordinary lives come to life in Thorning’s chapter on “Taverns and Temperance,” as he explores the underside of ideal configurations like the model village. He demonstrates that, before the temperance movement made inroads during the century’s second half, the plentiful taverns were among the town’s primary businesses: “In Elora’s early years the tavern was vital and the drinking was hard,” and not just in public establishments. The subsequent two chapters discuss the late nineteenth century “refinement” of village society, with the construction of prominent buildings, the expansion of the churches, especially church-affiliated social organizations and sports clubs, the growth of first private and then public schools, as well as private and then public libraries. Civic pride and optimism then declined, largely, he charges, due to lack of vision on the part

of town leaders, as the model village ideal failed. By the 1920s, with the Great War and the Spanish Flu behind them, Elora had become “the archetypal quiet small town”.

This is where Thorning’s story closes. In her sensitive afterword, DeLaurentis observes that he had planned for 27 chapters. The concluding three were to cover the years from the Depression through the Second World War, and then up to the 150th anniversary in 1982. Later, she notes, he considered that 1999, the year that Elora, Fergus, and a number of other villages amalgamated into the Township of Centre Wellington, would make a more suitable endpoint. Whether he planned to or would have finished this project can never be known.

The editor selected a wide range of illustrations, with scarcely a page missing a reproduction of artwork, advertising, maps, town plans at various points in its history, pages of private writings, individual and family portraits, and photographs of everyday Elora, all reprinted in their original colour. The index is thorough, and Thorning’s original citations have been updated. Without doing the book any justice in my allotted space, I’m grateful to the Wellington Historical Society and Elysia DeLaurentis for putting Thorning’s masterwork together. It is a fitting tribute both to his skill and to the village he loved.

Attendees were provided with opportunities to network and exchange insights during a “Mix & Mingle” session, which was followed by a heritage bus tour. Participants visited The Delta Mill in Delta and the Chaffey’s Lock Museum in Chaffey’s Lock, were entertained by trivia created by beloved local historian, Sue Warren, and instructed about the importance of expanding historical discussions to include the rich and significant histories of the Indigenous Peoples of the area.

One of the key discussion points of the gathering was the historic significance of the Rideau Canal system. Recognized as an essential part of Ontario’s heritage, various stakeholders emphasized the importance of its preservation and the communities it supports.

Several representatives from different organizations shared their perspectives. George German, Interim Chair of the Municipal Advisory Heritage Committee, outlined the committee’s ongoing heritage projects. Mark Brus of Parks Canada highlighted community engagement in national preservation projects. Daniel Dishaw spoke of the Ontario Historical Society’s latest endeavours to safeguard Ontario’s heritage. During her remarks, Marie White, Economic and Heritage Development Coordinator of the Township of Rideau Lakes, emphasized the intersect between historical preservation and economic growth in the region.

The event underscored the dedication of various organizations and individuals toward heritage preservation in Ontario. With collaborations like these, the ongoing commitment to conserving and showcasing the province’s history remains evident.



Photo – Mary White

OHS ED Daniel Dishaw spoke at “Heritage Matters” in Elgin about the Society’s programs and services for heritage organizations and public institutions in Ontario.

The *OHS Bulletin* is the newsletter of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS).

Next issue copy deadline:  
**Friday, November 3, 2023.**

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Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The *OHS Bulletin* is sent free of charge to all members of the OHS. The OHS’s biannual scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, is available to members for an additional \$36.75

per year; member organizations, institutions and non-member individuals for \$47.25; and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$57.75. Membership inquiries should be directed to Heather Anderson at [handerson@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:handerson@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

Inquiries about submissions and advertising: Daniel Dishaw, Executive Director, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2 416-226-9011 [ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca) [ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

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- Ontario Association of Cemetery and Funeral Professionals (OACFP)
- Ontario Centre for Archaeological Research and Education
- Oro Freedom Institute

## **REPORT HER-2023-021**

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TO: Heritage Advisory Committee

PREPARED BY: Laura Emery, Communications and Committee Coordinator

PRESENTED BY: Laura Emery, Communications and Committee Coordinator

MEETING DATE: November 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Radiocommunications Tower Sub-committee

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

That staff report HER-2023-021 entitled Radiocommunications Tower Sub-committee be received for information; and,

That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Radiocommunications Tower Sub-Committee.

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to appoint two individuals to a Radiocommunications Tower Sub-committee.

### Background

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is the federal body responsible for granting authorization for radiocommunications installations. As the approval agency, the ISED has requirements with respect to public consultation on all radiocommunication tower applications. The Township of Puslinch Council is a commenting body on this proposed tower and will issue concurrence or non-concurrence with tower applications which are taken into account by ISED.

### Comments

Staff recommend establishing a Radiocommunications Tower Sub-Committee. This sub-committee will submit comments on behalf of the Heritage Advisory Committee when a proposed radiocommunication tower application is either located on a property that is on the

Township's Heritage Register or within close distance /the circulation area of a property that is on the Township's Heritage Register.

The Sub-committee will take into consideration:

- Location of a proposed Radiocommunications tower
- Impacts of a proposed Radiocommunications tower on heritage structures
- Any other relevant items

Financial Implications

None

Attachments

None



## **REPORT HER-2023-022**

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TO: Heritage Advisory Committee

PREPARED BY: Laura Emery, Communications and Committee Coordinator

PRESENTED BY: Laura Emery, Communications and Committee Coordinator

MEETING DATE: November 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Properties for Heritage Designation in 2024

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Report HER-2023-022 regarding the properties for heritage designation in 2024 be received for information; and,

That the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend the following properties for Council's consideration as the priority properties for designation in 2024:

1. 4856 Sideroad 10 N
2. 6714 Concession 1
3. 7094 Concession 1
4. 4162 Highway 6
5. 7618 Leslie RD W
6. 8 Brock RD N
7. 413 Arkell RD
8. 6 Victoria ST
9. 7839 Wellington RD 34
10. 56 Queen ST
11. 4726 Watson RD S
12. 4855 Pioneer TR
13. 4347 Concession 11
14. 4677 Watson RD S
15. 69 Queen ST
16. 6592 Concession 1

17. 7751 Maltby RD E
18. 6981 Concession 4
19. 4556 Sideroad 20 N

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Heritage Advisory Committee with an update on the feedback received in 2023 from property owners with non-designated properties on the Township's Heritage Register. Staff are providing the committee with recommend properties for designation based on the property priority ranking analysis completed by the Township's 2023 Heritage Summer Student.

### Background

Staff provided the Committee with an update regarding the 2023 Heritage Designation Process at its September 11, 2023 Committee meeting at which the Committee endorsed the statements of cultural heritage value or interest for the 19 priority properties identified for designation in 2023. The statements of cultural heritage value or interest have been provided to the Township's peer reviewer for a final review. Following the completion of this review staff will be bring a report based on the intent to designate the 19 properties for Council's consideration at a future Council meeting. Staff will provide an update to the Heritage Advisory Committee with respect to the 2023 Heritage Designations in the first quarter of 2024.

With the timelines imposed under *Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* that limit the length of time a property can remain on a heritage register without being designated, the Township has until January 1, 2025 to designate the remaining properties on the Township's Heritage Register. It is staff's recommendation that the Heritage Advisory Committee select a maximum of 20 additional properties for designation in 2024.

### Comments

As part of the engagement that took place in 2023 with respect to the heritage designation process staff distributed a letter on July 10, 2023 to the owners of non-designated properties that had not been selected as priority properties to solicit their interest in heritage designation. In response to the letter sent by staff, the following properties indicated their interest in having their property designated:

- 6 Victoria St
- 6981 Concession 4
- 4556 Sideroad 20 N

The Heritage Summer Student completed a priority-ranking list (Schedule A) of the properties using a matrix that considered:

- a. The date of construction and if it was constructed before the 1860s
- b. The style of building (ex. Georgian Stucco, Commercial, Log, Italianate, Cottage, Gothic, Neoclassic, Edwardian, Ontario House, Victorian)
- c. The degree of craftsmanship (High, low, or outstanding)
- d. Prominent historical significance
- e. Rareness of the building (In terms of its design value, and if the style, expression, material or construction method is representative of the time)
- f. Unique features (ex. Original foundation, original windows, materials used to build, height of building etc.)

Based on the Heritage Summer Student's priority-ranking list the following properties are to be recommended for designation:

- 4856 Sideroad 10 N
- 6714 Concession 1
- 4095 Sideroad 25 S
- 7094 Concession 1
- 4162 Highway 6
- 7618 Leslie RD W
- 4240 Victoria RD S
- 8 Brock RD N
- 413 Arkell RD
- 6 Victoria ST
- 7839 Wellington RD 34
- 56 Queen ST
- 6926 Wellington RD 34
- 4726 Watson RD S
- 4855 Pioneer TR
- 4347 Concession 11
- 4677 Watson RD S
- 69 Queen ST
- 6592 Concession 1
- 7751 Maltby RD E
- 6981 Concession 4

- 4556 Sideroad 20 N

Of the properties identified by the Heritage Summer Student in the priority-ranking list, the owners of the following properties have indicated they are not interested in having their properties designated:

- 4095 Sideroad 25 S
- 4240 Victoria RD S
- 6926 Wellington RD 34

Therefore, staff's recommendation for properties to be considered for designation in 2024 is as follows:

1. 4856 Sideroad 10 N
2. 6714 Concession 1
3. 7094 Concession 1
4. 4162 Highway 6
5. 7618 Leslie RD W
6. 8 Brock RD N
7. 413 Arkell RD
8. 6 Victoria ST
9. 7839 Wellington RD 34
10. 56 Queen ST
11. 4726 Watson RD S
12. 4855 Pioneer TR
13. 4347 Concession 11
14. 4677 Watson RD S
15. 69 Queen ST
16. 6592 Concession 1
17. 7751 Maltby RD E
18. 6981 Concession 4
19. 4556 Sideroad 20 N

The draft Statements of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest prepared by the Township's 2023 Heritage Summer Student are attached as schedules B-T.

Should Council endorse the Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendation, a report will be brought to the January 15, 2024 Heritage Advisory Committee meeting for the creation of sub-

committees to review the draft Statements of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest prior to them being sent to the Township's peer reviewer.

### Financial Implications

None

### Attachments

Schedule A – Priority-ranking list

Schedule B – 1-06500 – 4856 Sideroad 10 N – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule C – 3-01600 – 6714 Concession 1 – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule D – 4-08900 – 7094 Concession 1 – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule E – 5-16200 – 4162 Highway 6 – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule F – 5-18900 – 7618 Leslie Rd W – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule G – 6-15000 – 8 Brock Rd – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule H – 8-18000 – 413 Arkell Rd – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule I – 5-13200 – 6 Victoria St. – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule J – 7-02700 – 7839 Wellington Rd 34 – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule K – 5-12000 – 56 Queen St. – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule L – 8-07800 – 4726 Watson Rd S – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule M – 1-05400 – 4855 Pioneer Trail – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule N – 7-01300 – 4347 Concession 11 – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule O – 8-06200 – 4677 Watson Rd S – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule P – 5-10100 – 69 Queen St – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule Q – 3-03700 – 6592 Concession 1 – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule R – 7-06900 – 7751 Maltby Rd E – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule S – 2-19600 – 6981 Concession 4 – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Schedule T – 2-19700 – 4556 Sideroad 20 N – Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Attributes								
Municipal Address	Short Description	Year Plaques	Pre 1860s	Style	Degree of Craftsmanship	Prominent Historical Significance	Rare	Unique Features
4856 Sideroad 10 N Puslinch	Thomas Saunders House/Vimy Ridge, 1846. Very significant, early, and rare three storey stone Georgian stucco over limestone residence with brick stables and unique barn. High degree of craftsmanship. Known as "Woodlands". Historically and contextually associated with stock-breeding in Puslinch, W.W.1 veteran rehabilitation, and orphan retreat. Painted by William Henry Edward Napier, 1855.	2000	Yes	Georgian Stucco	High	Yes	Yes	Yes
6714 Concession 1 Puslinch	Donald Ferguson House, Store and Post Office, c1869. Two storey stone house, front gabled built with store and post office. Historically and contextually associated with Highland Scots immigration from Inverness Shire and settlement of Killean, and commerce and postal service in Killean and Puslinch. Called in its time, the "Scotch House".	2009	No	Commercial	High	Yes	Yes	Yes
7094 Concession 1 Puslinch	John Thompson House, 1845. Rare 1.5 storey log house, with original stone fireplace. Historically and contextually associated with Highland Scots immigration from Argyleshire and the settlement of Killean.	2000	Yes	Log	High	Yes	Yes	Yes
4162 Highway 6 Puslinch	Paul Winer homestead. Early and unique log house, 1829, and yellow brick 'Ontario House', 1875. Both historically and contextually associated with founding of Morriston, German settlement in Morriston and founding Winer, Morlock and Calfas families whose properties are adjacent.	2000	Yes	Log	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes

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7618 Leslie RD W Puslinch	William Nicoll house, 1860-1880. Significant Stone two storey Italianate house, outstanding craftsmanship. Earlier log cabin housed inside. Historically and contextually associated with Puslinch political and military history; Nicoll was Reeve of Puslinch and Warden of Wellington County, and a Lt. Col. in the militia formed during	2000	No	Italianate	Outstanding	Yes	Yes	Yes

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## Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 4856 Sideroad 10 North, Puslinch, has cultural heritage value due to its significant and complex history in regards to not only the Puslinch community, but to the entire country and beyond. The property itself resembles high artistic merit and includes various styles and details. The property served as a farm, residence, and rehabilitation center for the Township and has is heavily connected to Puslinch's early settlement, the First World War, local agriculture, and the British Government. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

### *Design Value*

The property is a stunning example of a three storey residence built in the Georgian style. The exterior features that are of particular importance is the limestone used for the construction of the house, which was subsequently faced with a roughcast plaster, the portico fitted with highly detailed beams, 12x12 sash and circular gable windows. Additionally, the dormitory/woodwork shop also demonstrates a high degree of craftsmanship, as the stone foundation, 4x4 and gothic arched windows, and brick chimney demonstrate high artistic efforts.

### *Historical/ Associative Value*

The property, located on Lots 9 and 10 on Concession 5, originally belonged to Roland Wingfield. However, his neighbour, Col. Thomas Saunders, purchased it in 1858. Saunders, who lived on Lot 10, had the residence built in 1846. The farm, known as "Woodlands," expanded with the addition of this land and gained fame for its size and scenic beauty.

Between 1863 and 1864, Walter Sorby bought the farm from Col. Thomas Saunders and built the current barn and a woodworking shop for himself and his three carpenter sons. After Walter's passing in 1890, the farm passed into the ownership of his son, Oswald. Oswald used the farm for animal raising and the importation and sale of valuable horses, particularly Clydesdales.

In 1912, Mr. Ralph Ballagh from Michigan purchased the Sorby farm for \$30,000. Ballagh owned the property until 1923, when the Ontario Government acquired it to provide employment for returning soldiers from World War I. The farm was subsequently renamed Vimy Ridge Farm.

However, the government initiative was short-lived due to the implementation of the Empire Settlement Act, 1922, by the British Government. This act facilitated the resettlement of agriculturalists, farm laborers, domestics, and juvenile immigrants across the Commonwealth. Vimy Ridge Farm was chosen as a location for orphaned children from Britain to be sent to, so they could learn how to do agricultural work. From 1923 to 1932, Vimy Ridge Farm served as a

home for numerous boys, and once they reached the age of 17, they would begin their new lives in Canada.

*Contextual Value:*

The property stands as one of the only remaining mid-19<sup>th</sup> century properties along Concession 5. With that, The Thomas Saunders/ Vimy Ridge Farm represents the architectural mindset of many early settlers, as well as the progressive changes in style given its additions throughout its history. Additionally, the property is considered a landmark for the area, as many communities are associated with it; hundreds of British immigrants see Vimy Ridge Farm as their first residence in Canada, as well as a key location for WWI veterans and various farmers and agriculturalists within the Township.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4856 Sideroad 10 North:

Thomas Saunders House/Vimy Ridge:

- All original doors and windows
- Front portico
- Original stone foundation
- All original walls; both stone and wood
- Height, scale, and massing of original three storey property



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## **Short Statement of Cultural Value or Interest**

The property situated at 6714 Concession 1, Puslinch, holds significant cultural heritage as it is directly linked to the founding of Killean and showcases a prominent architectural style. It serves as a testament to the early commercial and industrial history of the region, as well as the initial Scottish settlement. Moreover, the property exhibits a rich and diverse architectural composition as it features a wide range of styles. The Donald Ferguson property is distinct as it features various types of buildings constructed on a single lot. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

### *Design Value:*

The property was constructed to act as a residence, store, and post office, therefore making its architectural aspects both unique and rare. The building is two stories and was constructed in the gothic style, which include features such as limestone brickwork, front verandah fitted with wood ornamentation, high pitched roof, 6x6 sash windows, and four pane transom. A significant feature of the property is the French windows located on the side façade. These windows are typical of the Regency and Italianate styles, making them unique to the buildings construction.

### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

The Donald Ferguson property originally consisted of a store built in 1865, and the post office was added the same year. The Ferguson's were natives of Scotland and were some of the earliest settlers in the Killean region.

The store that Donald built and ran was one of the first in the area, alongside William Nicoll. The post office holds great historical significance for the area, as when Ferguson named it "Killean Post Office," it solidified the name Killean for the area. The post office ran until 1913, when Rural Mail Delivery was established.

During the early 1860s, lot 9 also served as a blacksmith and hotel. It would not be until later when the blacksmith shop would be taken down, and the hotel was turned into a dwelling.

In 1869, the residence was built and was added to lot 9, where Donald Ferguson would live out the rest of his life. The property is still in the possession of the Ferguson family, and both the store and post-office buildings are now used as part of the residence.

### *Contextual Value:*

The Ferguson lot is heavily connected to Killean's surroundings. The residence is directly beside the Killean cemetery and is part of a streetscape that involves various other properties from the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, such as John McMaster's, Archie McKellar's, and the Begerow's houses, as well as Puslinch Lake Hotel. Additionally, the property is intertwined with its surroundings as the Killean School (S.S. #7) was built with the same limestone bricks that the Ferguson store was constructed with, a kiln located on the back of lot 9. The property stands a landmark for the area as it was crucial to the formation and sustainability of Killean, as it served the community with goods and provided them various services.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 6714 Concession 1:

- All original doors and windows.
- Original wood ornamentation.
- Front verandah.
- Height, scale, and massing.
- Exterior limestone brick walls.

## Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The log house situated at 7094 Concession 1, Puslinch, has cultural heritage value for a variety of reasons. Constructed in 1845, it was intended as the residence for John Thompson, a prominent early settler in the Crieff area of the Township. Notably, the property showcases an exceptional level of craftsmanship and represents some of the earliest architectural styles employed during the initial settlement period in Puslinch. Moreover, the property maintains direct associations with local carpenters and stonemasons, further enhancing its historical significance. Additionally, it serves as a tangible connection to the Scottish immigration that shaped the area. Furthermore, the property shares a notable link with Crieff School, as it was later generously donated by John Thompson to the institution. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

### *Design Value:*

The property is an excellent and rare example of a typical one-and-a-half-storey log house. It features exterior elements that are characteristic of this style, such as a plain horizontal log façade, small fixed-paned windows, and a central entry. What makes this property truly unique is the type of wood used. Instead of black ash or cedar logs, it was constructed using pine logs that were hewed on two sides. This material choice has contributed to the exceptional preservation of the property.

### *Historical/Associative Value:*

The log house on the property, located at Lots 23-25, Front Concession 1, holds a significant place among the oldest properties in the Township. Constructed in 1845, it has a strong connection to the Scottish immigration from Argyllshire. Its first owner, John Thompson, migrated from Argyllshire to Crieff in the early 1840s, along with many others from that area.

The property is also tied to skilled local craftsmen. Peter Lamont, the carpenter, played a pivotal role in hewing the pine logs to be used in its construction. Furthermore, Angus McDonald, a highly esteemed mason in the Township, contributed his expertise to the project.

The log house served as a house in which John Thompson and Ann Campbell raised their family. At some point in time, John Thompson had given the lot for the Crieff School.

### *Contextual Value:*

The Thompson log house is an integral part of a streetscape that encompasses several other early settler residences, including the Archibald Thompson and Malcolm Gilchrest Sr. houses. This property holds exceptional significance for the Township, as it exemplifies the appearance of many early Scottish settler residences, as Knox Presbyterian Church was also located close by. Moreover, it is historically interconnected with its surroundings, representing the diverse

architectural styles adopted by Scottish settlers during a short period. The aforementioned houses display varying styles, further enhancing the property's historical relevance.

The property is considered a landmark in the area, as it serves as a symbol of Scottish settlement in the Crieff area, representing the enduring legacy of the Scottish community in the region.

#### Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 7094 Concession 1:

John Thompson House:

- All original doors and windows
- Pine logs used for the exterior wall
- Height, scale and massing of the original one and a half-storey structure
- Stone foundation
- Roof support beams

## Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property located at 4162 Highway 6, Puslinch, holds significant cultural heritage value due to its direct connection with one of the three founding families in the Morriston area. What makes this property unique is that it still contains both the original dwelling, a log house built in 1829, and the farmhouse that was constructed in 1875. The homestead was established by Paul Winer and represents the part of Morriston that was initially settled by Germans in the early 19th century. The dwellings situated on this lot showcase the evolving and dynamic architectural styles that were prominent throughout the Township during the 1800s. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

### *Design Value:*

The property features two different residences that are both great representations of two drastically architectural styles. The log cabin follows the typical features that are associated with this style of building, including one storey, plain horizontal logs for the exterior walls, stone foundation, and small fixed panes. The log house featured on this property also includes a loft.

The later residence built on the property in 1875 is a great representation of the Gothic Revival or 'Ontario House' style. This house is of high craftsmanship and follows the features of the associated style, which includes its yellow brick exterior walls, arched windows under peaked gables, and the front verandah with the second storey balcony for an above entrance. The verandah and the front peak gable are fitted with ornamentation as well.

### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

The log house, located Part Lots 33 and 34, Concession 7, was built by the Paul Winer family the year after their immigration from Germany to Puslinch in 1828. The Winers were among the first three settler families in the Morriston area, making this log house one of the earliest properties in the entire Township.

Forty-six years later, in 1875, the Paul Winer family decided to construct a new and much larger dwelling to accommodate their growing family. The yellow brick farmhouse, located further back on the lot, was erected using bricks supplied by the Morriston Brickyard.

Over time, the log house was repurposed as a farm shop and has served similar functions throughout its history. The homestead has remained largely unchanged, with the most recent restoration efforts taking place in 2019.

### *Contextual Value:*

The Paul Winer homestead is part of a streetscape that includes various other early Morriston settler houses, such as the Morlock and Calfas houses. These families were among the earliest settlers in the area. Additionally, the homestead is closely linked to the German migration to Morriston, as many of the other residences were built and owned by German migrants. Furthermore, the homestead is associated with the German Evangelical Church, illustrating the close proximity in which these houses were constructed to facilitate attendance at the church.

The Ontario House, in particular, is connected to its surroundings through its construction, which is tied to the Morriston Brick Yard. This brickyard produced distinct bricks, thus making the property part of a wider network of Morriston properties. The property, particularly the log house, is considered a landmark as it serves as a physical representation of some of the earliest settlement in the Morriston area, as well as the early architectural style associated with it.

### Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4162 Highway 6:

#### Paul Winer Homestead:

- Original windows and doors
- Original foundation
- Yellow brick wall exterior
- Log wall exterior
- Verandah
- Ornamentation
- Height, scale and massing of both properties

### Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The property situated at 7618 Leslie Road West, Puslinch, possesses significant cultural heritage value due to its association with the Scottish, political, and military history of the Township. It was predominantly owned by the Nicoll family, with William Nicoll being of particular note, as he made notable contributions to the community in both military and political spheres. Additionally, the property holds value due to its distinct architectural composition, exemplifying vernacular elements that are exclusive to the township and showcasing an exceptional level of craftsmanship. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### *Design Value:*

The property is an excellent and unique example of a homestead built with the Italianate style in mind, but incorporates vernacular elements throughout. The Nicoll house showcases several features associated with this style, such as its two-story height, "L" shaped configuration, stone façade, side and front gable low-pitched roof adorned with large brackets, and a portico entrance. However, what sets it apart is the use of square sash windows, whereas paired or ocular windows are typically favored in the Italianate style. Additionally, the absence of a bay window, which is indicative of this style, and the addition of quoins, is also noteworthy of its vernacular aspects.

#### *Historical/Associative Value:*

The property was originally constructed in 1860 as a one-story residence by Alexander Nicoll, who purchased the lot from Andrew Stahl. Alexander Nicoll and his wife immigrated to Puslinch from Forfarshire, Scotland in 1834, settling on Lot 35, Rear Concession 8, as well as the lot they purchased from Andrew Stahl. They lived in a log house for many years until Alexander Nicoll passed away in 1860.

Following his father's death, William Nicoll, who was only 15 years old at the time, undertook the construction of the current property with the assistance of the Leslie family. They aided Mary Nicoll, who was widowed, in overseeing the building of the new property, which incorporated the original log house. Initially, the residence consisted of only one story.

Over the course of several years, the property underwent updates, and sometime around 1880, a second story was added. William Nicoll would spend the remainder of his life in the farmhouse. It was during this time that he held the position of Reeve of Puslinch and served as the Warden of Wellington County. Additionally, he resided on the property while serving in the local militia during the Fenian Raids.

### *Contextual Value:*

The Nicoll property stands out as a distinctive residence within its surroundings. While it may not be the oldest property in the immediate vicinity, the farmhouse holds the distinction of being the sole house influenced by Italianate architecture, showcasing early architectural liberties taken in the Township. Moreover, the property is nestled among numerous other Scottish households in and around Concession 8, establishing a context and fostering a stronger connection to the settlement of these individuals in which participated in early settlement efforts. As a result, it contributes to the character of this particular region within the Township.

### Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 7618 Leslie Rd. W:

#### William Nicoll House:

- Original doors and windows
- Height, scale, and massing of property
- Stonework done for the exterior walls
- Original foundation
- Eaves and their ornamentation
- Chimneys

### Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The property at 8 Brock Road North, Puslinch, holds cultural heritage significance due to its historical connections to various industries and communities in the Aberfoyle region. Constructed around 1860, the property has served multiple purposes throughout its existence, including functioning as a blacksmith shop, a wagon and carriage shop, and even as a residential building. Its location along the historic Brock Rd adds to its historical value. Notably, the property stands as the sole surviving blacksmith shop building in Aberfoyle. Today, the property has returned its focus to industry, serving as a vivid reminder of the important role it played in the region's past. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### *Design Value:*

The property stands as an early representation of an industrial building within the Township. While it doesn't conform strictly to a specific architectural style, the structure incorporates neoclassical elements. These include a two-story height, a three-bay front façade, an end gable roof, small paned windows, and a central door. Over time, the property has undergone modifications, including the addition of large double doors at the rear and sizable paned windows at each end of the building.

#### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

The building was constructed circa 1860, and McKenzie is credited as the stonemason responsible for its creation. Originally intended as a blacksmith shop, the property was operated by John Bickley for a number of years.

Later on, the upstairs of the building was purchased by Mr. Campbell, who established a wagon and carriage shop. In order to accommodate the construction and movement of wagons, significant renovations were carried out, including the addition of large double doors and windows, as well as raising the ground level at the back of the building.

In 1896, James Mason took over the basement and transformed it into a blacksmith shop, while converting the upstairs into a residence for his family. The building continued to be used as a residence until the 1900s, eventually coming under the ownership of Fred Hamilton by 1950. (*Annals of Puslinch: 1850-1950, 36*)

However, in recent years, the property has been repurposed for commercial use. In 2005, a 3380 square foot additional structure was erected adjacent to the side and rear of the original property. During this period according to Township building permit documents, parking lots were also created at both the front and back of the premises.

### *Contextual Value:*

The building holds a prominent position on Brock Rd, a historically significant thoroughfare in the establishment of the Township, particularly in the Aberfoyle area. It stands as the sole remaining blacksmith shop in the vicinity, connecting it directly to its surroundings. The other two blacksmith shops, one operated by Robert Earon on the west side of Brock Rd and the other by Joseph Roach just east of the Aberfoyle Hotel, have since disappeared. (*Annals of Puslinch: 1850-1950*, 36) As such, the old blacksmith shop serves as a visual representation of Aberfoyle's flourishing industrial aspirations during the mid-19th century.

Moreover, the property has been a hub for various services over the years, further cementing its connection to the community. Its significance as a landmark in Aberfoyle lies in its ability to resonate with multiple generations and diverse communities, serving as a testament to the area's rich heritage and cultural associations.

### Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 8 Brock Rd. N:

- Original doors and windows
- Height, scale, and massing of the original two storey building
- Original foundation
- Stonework on exterior walls

### Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The property situated at 413 Arkell Road, Puslinch, holds immense cultural heritage significance owing to its remarkable architectural construction and rich historical legacy. Constructed in 1852 by Thomas Arkell, the farmhouse, aptly named "Stonehaven," played a pivotal role in various communities and individuals throughout its existence. Notably, it symbolized the commencement of English immigration to the area, served as a center for extensive agricultural practices and research, and played a vital part in establishing Farnham Rd and the region of Arkell. The property stands as a tangible embodiment of these multifaceted historical contributions, making it a cherished treasure of cultural heritage. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value

#### *Design Value:*

The Thomas Arkell property stands as an outstanding representation of a residence constructed in the Georgian architectural style. Author Jean Hutchinson, wrote in *The History of Wellington County* that the Arkell house is "The finest example of English architecture in Canada." The property faithfully captures the essence of the houses found in England during the late 1700s to early 1800s.

The exterior design features characteristic of the Georgian style, such as stone or brick construction, a two-and-a-half-story structure, and either a hip or an end gable roof, are all present in the Thomas Arkell property. The small-paned sash windows, along with the central entrance adorned with a square transom window and sidelights, further contribute to its authentic representation of the Georgian style. Thomas Arkell meticulously adhered to these architectural patterns, showcasing the exceptional and almost picturesque nature of the property's exterior.

#### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

The Thomas Arkell property holds a rich historical connection to various communities and locations. In 1828, brothers John and Thomas Arkell embarked on a journey from Berkshire, England in search of fertile farming land. Their efforts led them to acquire Lots 1-9, Front and Rear of Concessions 9 and 10, which they named Farnham in May 1829.

After returning to England in 1833, Thomas Arkell came back to the area in 1843 and settled on Lots 7-10. Initially, he built a log house on the property before envisioning the construction of a Georgian manor. In 1844, he cut the lumber, allowing it to dry for five years in preparation for the new residence. Construction of the building, known as "Stonehaven," commenced in 1849.

To accomplish the stonework, Thomas enlisted the expertise of stonemason George Batterson, who came from England. The stone was quarried by local carpenters Mr. Cook and Mr. Roberts, and it took three years to complete the stonework. Notably, Thomas deviated from the usual practice of positioning the front of the house towards the road; instead, he arranged it to face away from the road to avoid witnessing activities on his farm.

George Nichols, a local blacksmith, was entrusted with crafting the hardware for the doors, windows, and woodwork. The property changed hands in 1906, and in 1918, it was purchased by William J. Kay, a prominent shorthorn breeder. He and his wife preserved the exterior of the property and, in an effort to maintain its English design and heritage, furnished the interior with valuable period-correct furniture and an array of antiques.

In 1955, the Ontario Agriculture College (O.A.C.) acquired the 200-acre farm, including Stonehaven. The property became the headquarters for the Research Department of the Branch of Animal Husbandry, a role it continues to fulfill today. As the O.A.C. still owns the property, it remains a site for conducting similar research activities.

*Contextual Value:*

The farmhouse holds a prominent position as the cornerstone of the Farnham Rd streetscape and stands as one of the earliest properties in the Arkell region. It bears a significant historical association with English immigration to the area, marking the commencement of the influx of settlers from England to the Township. Notably, the property is closely linked to the Arkell brothers' sawmill and woolen mill, as the logs processed at the mill were utilized in the construction of Stonehaven.

The architectural design of the property serves as a testament to the collective efforts of early English settlers in the region, as the Georgian style, which was not yet widely employed, was carefully implemented. This unique design distinguishes the property and emphasizes its role in reflecting the aspirations and achievements of those early settlers from England. As a result, the property stands as a cherished landmark, intimately connected to the pioneering families of the township and showcasing its rich agricultural heritage.

## Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 413 Arkell Rd:

- Original doors and windows
- Stonework wall exterior
- Height, scale and massing of the two storey property
- Original stone foundation

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### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The property located at 6 Victoria St, Morriston, holds significant cultural heritage value due to its association with German settlement in the Morriston area. Specifically, the property is associated with Herbert Leitch, a skilled stonemason and August Wurtz, both of whom were German immigrants. The property's architectural value lies within its distinctive shape and intricate design elements. The silhouette of the residence is used on the Puslinch Heritage Committee plaques, which are affixed to historical properties across the Township. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province Ontario as it satisfies at least two of the nine criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest under Ontario Regulation 9/06 (as amended by O. Reg. 569/22) under the Ontario Heritage Act.

### *Design Value:*

The property contains an exceptional and distinctive example of a one-and-a-half-storey cottage that was converted into an "Ontario House" style residence later on. Exterior elements of this style, which can be seen on the residence include the dolomite and fieldstone façade, end gabled roof with peaked front gables, gothic arched windows under the peaked gables, as well as sash windows throughout. The entrance is centered and is fitted with transom. Whirlpool sandstone was used for quoins, lintels, and some of the voussoirs. Aside from its detailed craftsmanship, the property is of particular interest due to its unusual design, as it has two twin gables joined by a keyhole entrance which is now covered by a porch.

### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

The property, located on Lots 38-39, PLAN 131, was originally constructed by Herbert Leitch, a Prussian-born resident of Morriston, in the early 1880s. In 1885, given his profession as a stonemason, he built the initial cottage residence. In 1890, the property was purchased by August Wurtz, another German settler, for a sum of \$350. After acquiring the residence, Wurtz took on renovations that transformed the property into the current "Ontario House", which was the most common architectural style in the region after 1864. When the Puslinch Heritage Committee initiated their plaquing program for historical properties in 2000, they selected the silhouette of the Leitch/Wurtz house as the program's logo.

### *Contextual Value:*

The property forms an integral part of a streetscape that holds strong connections to the German settlement in the Morriston area. In close proximity to the Leitch/Wurtz house, one can find other significant residences, such as the Morlock, Calfas, and Winer houses. These three families, considered the founding families of Morriston, further emphasize the historical

importance of the area. Moreover, the property's proximity to the German Evangelical church demonstrates the preferred settlement location for subsequent German migrants arriving in Morrilton after the initial 'boom' seen in the 1830-50s.

### Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 6 Victoria St:

Herbert Leitch/ August Wurtz House:

- Original doors and windows
- Original foundation
- Fieldstone, dolomite, and limestone used for exterior walls
- Voussoirs, lintels, and quoins
- Height, scale, and massing of the original one and a half story residence



### **Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

The property situated at 7839 Wellington Road 34, Puslinch, possesses significant cultural heritage value owing to its direct association with the early settlement of the Corwhin region, specifically linked to the Highland Scottish immigrants, including Duncan Campbell. In addition to its historical significance, the property showcases unique architectural features that are complemented by exceptional craftsmanship, underscoring its value as a testament to skilled construction techniques of its time. Moreover, the inclusion of the Corwhin Post Office on the property highlights its multifunctional nature, extending beyond being solely a farmstead. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### *Design Value:*

The property serves as an exceptional illustration of a two-storey residence designed in the Georgian architectural style. Its exterior features exemplify the characteristics associated with this style, such as a three-bay stone façade, an end gable roof accompanied by matching chimneys, small-paned sash windows, and a centrally positioned door embellished with a transom and sidelights.

The stone façade of the property is meticulously crafted using fieldstone, with soldier lintels adorning the front, while striated lintels are found on the sides. A fire that occurred many years ago resulted in the front lintels becoming charred, imparting a unique color and overall appearance to them. Furthermore, the property was constructed into a bank on the front, allowing it to be situated in an elevated position, thereby requiring steps leading up to the front door.

#### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

The Campbell family migrated to Puslinch from Perthshire, Scotland in 1833 and settled on Lot 21, Rear Concession 10, which is the current location of the property. By the 1850s, Duncan Campbell had become the owner of the property, and the construction of the stone house took place during that period, as documented in the 1860s and 1877 Puslinch maps. Additionally, Duncan Campbell acquired Lots 19-21 on Concession 11, which included the Corwhin Post Office and store as part of the property. (Annals of Puslinch: 1850-1950.)

During the late 1900s, the property came under the ownership of Duncan Ross. The Post Office continued its operations on the property until 1912, coinciding with the introduction of rural mail services in the Township, leading to its closure.

Throughout its existence, the property's exterior has remained relatively unchanged. The current owners have shown careful attention by replacing windows and doors in a style that pays homage to the original design and character of the house.

*Contextual Value:*

The Duncan Campbell property stands in close proximity to several other Scottish migrant properties, reinforcing the collective heritage of the area. Notably, it is one of only two properties in the immediate vicinity that showcases the Georgian architectural style. This unique characteristic aligns with the earlier Scottish migration patterns, as the Georgian style was commonly associated with the early settlement period and distinguishes itself from the prevalent stone cottages and "Ontario Houses" in the surrounding area.

Furthermore, the property holds historical significance as it is intricately linked to the Scottish immigration, particularly from Perthshire to the Corwhin area. Its presence contributes to the narrative of the location established by Scottish settlers, and due to its relatively early construction, it stands as a symbol of community strength and resilience.

**Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 7839 Wellington Rd. 34:

- Original foundation
- Stonework on exterior walls
- Height, scale, and massing of original two storey property
- Paired Chimneys

### **Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

The property located at 56 Queen Street, Morriston, is of cultural heritage as it directly associates with one of the three founding families of Morriston. It stands as the original property owned by John Calfas on Lot 6 of PLAN 135. The property showcases an early architectural style, characterized by its log house construction, which reflects the initial house style prevalent in the area during the earliest settlement period. Additionally, the property holds cultural heritage significance due to its deep-rooted connection with German settlement, as evidenced by the three German migrant owners who possessed the property throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### *Design Value:*

The property is a rare and early example of a one storey log house in the Township. The exterior features of this style, which also appear on the homestead include the plain horizontal log façade that was chinked with moss or plaster, fixed and small paned windows, and a central entrance.

#### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

The property was originally constructed in 1842 by John Calfas on Lot 6, PLAN 135. John Calfas, a German immigrant, along with the Morlock's and Winer's families, formed the three settling families in the Morriston area. It is believed that John Calfas and his family built the property.

In 1854, the property was acquired by another German immigrant named John (Johann) Stein. During his tenure, he operated his cooperage business from the basement located at the rear of the house. The back opening of the house also led to his garden, where he cultivated fruit trees.

Following John Stein's passing in 1894, his wife Elizabeth and their daughter Mary relocated to Victoria St. in Morriston, engaging in a house exchange with George Finkbeiner. After Elizabeth's demise in 1903, the Finkbeiner family purchased the property.

All three owners of the property, Calfas, Stein, and Finkbeiner, held significant connections to the church, playing integral roles in establishing the German Evangelical Church, which still exists today.

### *Contextual Value:*

The property holds significant importance in defining the character of the area due to its direct association with the early settlement in the Morriston area. It forms an essential part of the streetscape that distinctly represents this early settlement, featuring neighboring residences such as the Morlock's, Schlegel, and Leitch/Wurtz houses. Moreover, the property's proximity to the church serves as a testament to its historical connection with the surrounding community.

Furthermore, the property stands as one of the earliest log houses in the entire Township, reflecting the architectural ideals embraced by the area's earliest settlers. Its construction aligns with the architectural concepts prevalent during that time.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 56 Queen St:

John Calfas/Stein House:

- Original doors and windows
- Original foundation
- Height, scale, and massing of original one storey property
- Wood and other material used in the construction of the façade

### **Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

The property located at 4726 Watson Road South, Puslinch, has cultural heritage value due to its association with Scottish settlement in the Arkell area, specifically that of Robert Green and William Rae. Additionally, the property has cultural value due to the residence being a representative example of the "Ontario House" style, as well as featuring a stone bank barn with an unusual central opening. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### *Design Value:*

The property is an excellent representative example of a one-and-a-half-storey "Ontario House" style residence that was built with a high degree of craftsmanship. This style's exterior features include the three-bay front façade, stone brickwork on the exterior walls, an end gable roof with a peaked front gable, sashed windows with a gothic arched window beneath the peaked gable, and a central entrance with sidelights and a transom. Additionally, the property's bank barn is of high craftsmanship, as it is also made of stone and consists of an interesting drive-through central opening made for horses to go right through after being unhitched from their loads.

#### *Historical /Associative:*

The property, located on Lot 11, Rear Concession 9, was originally bought and settled on by Robert Green, who moved from Scotland to the Arkell community in 1853. The house is believed to be built sometime in the 1860s. By 1867, the property was sold to William Rae and it remained in the possession of the family until 1926.

#### *Contextual Value:*

The property is part of a streetscape that represents the formative properties in the Arkell region. Additionally, given that the property's stone was sourced from the immediate area, the house is both physically and historically linked to its surroundings, representing the efforts made to use both local materials and similar architectural design.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4726 Watson RD S:

William Rae House and Barn:

- Original windows and doors

- Original foundation
- Stone used for exterior walls
- Height, scale, and massing of original buildings

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**Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

The property located at 4855 Pioneer Trail, Puslinch, holds cultural heritage value due to its direct association with Scottish immigration, livestock breeding, and the Puslinch Farmer's Club. James Anderson, known as the "Laird of Puslinch," around 1862, purchased the property. Moreover, the property is closely linked to the early Scottish immigration to the area and is situated among many other properties that share similar historical significance. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

*Design Value:*

The property is an outstanding representation of a two-storey farmhouse constructed in the Italianate style with notable Georgian influences. The Italianate features of the property include the use of yellow brick for the facade, a low-pitched hip roof, and a front gable roof resulting from its "L" shape configuration. The front facade is adorned with double arched windows, adding to its distinct Italianate character. Additionally, the Georgian influence is evident in the five-bay front facade design, with the majority of the windows featuring small paned sash windows, while the paired windows were placed in the centre. Overall, the property's architectural elements demonstrate a harmonious blend of Italianate and Georgian styles, showcasing the skillful craftsmanship involved in its construction.

*Historical/ Associative Value:*

Edward Yeomans (check property file for source) originally purchased the property, located on Lot 13, Concession 5, in 1839. By 1861, James Anderson from Ayrshire, Scotland, purchased the land. Sometime in the next few years, the current farmhouse was erected. Under Anderson's ownership, the farm would be known as "Springfield" and was regarded as an extremely well kept and high production farm. Anderson during his ownership he was also intertwined in the creation of the Puslinch Farmer's Club and its prosperity. He gave speeches to members regarding turnip culture the implementation of artificial manure, which were reflective of the farming efforts that commenced on the property. Eventually, he would become President of the Puslinch Farmer's Club and be known as the "Laird of Puslinch". The property was owned Anderson until 1909.

*Contextual Value:*

The property is a key component of a streetscape that displays a collection of other Scottish immigrant houses. It stands out and contributes to the area's distinct character through its substantial size and exquisite architecture, which is a rarity among its neighbouring properties. Additionally, the property played a historic role as The Puslinch Farmer's Club, further solidifying its associations with the numerous farms and residences throughout the Township.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes:**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4855 Pioneer Tr:

James Anderson House:

- Original windows and doors
- Original foundation
- Stonework exterior walls
- Height, scale, and massing of original one and a half storey property

### **Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

The property, situated at 4347 Concession 11, Puslinch, holds significant cultural heritage value as it is closely linked to the early Scottish settlement in the Badenoch area and is particularly associated with the McLaren family, who were among the earliest settlers in the region. The residence on the property exemplifies the architectural style prevalent in the mid-1800s, and it forms an integral part of a streetscape characterized by similar dwellings, collectively representing the architectural heritage of the time. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### *Design Value:*

The property stands as an exceptional example of a two-storey Georgian style residence, displaying a range of distinctive exterior features. These include a five-bay front façade, stone wall exterior, an end gable roof adorned with bargeboard detailing and paired chimneys. The house also showcases small paned sashed windows. The central entrance is fitted with elegant sidelights and a transom, which are covered by a charming portico, completing the overall grandeur of the property's architectural design.

#### *Historical / Associative Value:*

The property, situated on Lots 25 and 26, Concession 11, was initially acquired by Peter McLaren, a Scottish immigrant who arrived in the Badenoch area in 1831. Around 1865, James McLaren and his wife Margaret Stewart commissioned the construction of the stone house on the property, where they resided until 1883. Following their departure, James' nephew, John McKenzie, purchased the farm while James and his family relocated to Drumbo. John McKenzie later sold the property to his son-in-law, R.T. Amos, who held ownership until 1944. With the sale in 1944, the remarkable 110-year ownership by Peter McLaren and his descendants came to an end.

#### *Contextual Value:*

The property seamlessly aligns with and enhances the character of the area as it contributes to a series of properties in the Badenoch region that were constructed in the Georgian/Neoclassic style. Among these residences are notable examples such as the Duncan Campbell, James Orme, and William Hume houses, which collectively shape the distinctive character of the locality. Additionally, the property serves as a testament to the architectural endeavors undertaken by the Scottish settlers during the late 18th to mid-19th century in the Township, reflecting their influence and contributions to the area's heritage.

## **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4347 Concession 11:

Peter McLaren:

- Original doors and windows
- Original foundation
- Stonework used for exterior wall
- Bargeboard ornamentation
- Portico
- Height, scale, and massing of original two storey property

### **Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

The property located at 4677 Watson Road South, Puslinch, has cultural heritage value owing to its close association with the Arkell community. The property was built for John Murray in 1896, where he lived for many years. Moreover, the property holds cultural heritage significance due to its architectural nature, which is rare in terms of construction techniques and distinctive features. Furthermore, the property is linked to local stonemasons and carpenters who played a crucial role in its construction, adding to its cultural significance. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### *Design Value:*

The property is a rare and exemplary of a two-and-a-half-story Queen Anne style house. The property's exterior showcases notable features that are characteristic of the architectural style it represents, and these features are consistently present throughout the entire property. These distinctive elements include an irregular and multi-surfaced façade embellished with intricate woodwork and brickwork. The steeply pitched roof adds to the overall aesthetic, while a variety of window styles, such as tall sash, palladium, bay, and oriel windows, contribute to the unique character of the house. Moreover, an entrance verandah complements the overall design. It is worth mentioning that the presence of a bay window at the front of the house and double windows on the upper level of the side-gable is uncommon particularly in the context of Puslinch.

#### *Historical/Associative Value:*

The property was originally owned by John Murray and had it built in 1896. The house was situated on Lot 13, Concession 10, which Murray purchased in 1881. The property was built by local stonemason Robert Lamb and carpenter William Stratton and Son. The work that was done in constructing the property demonstrate the advanced skill of the stonemasons in the 1800s in the area.

The size of the property and the unique exterior features as demonstrate the increased wealth of homeowners in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Contextual Value:*

The property is located on the historic Watson Rd. and stands alongside other late 19th-century properties in the vicinity, including the William Hume and James Orme houses, among others. These houses collectively exemplify the affluence prevalent in the Arkell area, as they are all

grand, meticulously designed residences. Additionally, the property is physically connected to its surroundings through the use of local fieldstone and granite for the house's façade.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4677 Watson Rd S:

John Murray House:

- All original doors and windows
- Original foundation
- Stonework bricks used in façade
- Verandah and ornamentation
- Height, scale, and massing of original two storey property

### **Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

The property located at 69 Queen Street, Morriston, is of cultural heritage value due to its close connection with the Morriston community, specifically its industrial history. The property stands as one of the last few industrial buildings from the early 19th century, and is associated with many of the early settler families in the area, including the McEdwards and the Huether's. Additionally, the property holds valuable architectural significance based on its construction and later additions which were carried out in tandem with changing industrial demands. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### *Design Value:*

The property is an early representation of an industrial building. The one storey property features fieldstone and dolomite exterior walls, small paned windows, a garage bay, and a low pitched roof.

#### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

The property, located at Lot 5 (PLAN 135), was initially built as a cooperage around 1856, but was later used as a blacksmith and garage shop. The stones used to build the property's exterior were imported from Guelph. By 1922, the property was purchased by Albert Huether and was known for many years as a garage shop.

Once Albert had passed away, the shop was owned and operated by his son, William until 1965, where the eventually opened a new garage in 1965.

#### *Contextual Value:*

The property is situated along Brock Rd. and is surrounded by many residences that were constructed around the same time in Morriston. Additionally, the property is closely connected to its surroundings, having served as a location that provided various services over the years. Its location, where many Morriston settlers resided, highlights the significance of being near a populated hub and reflects the changes in required services as carriages gave way to cars and coopers were replaced by mass production. As such, the property stands as a defining feature of both the landscape and the area's physical history, reminiscent of the initial drive to establish settlement in Morriston.

## **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 69 Queen St:

- All original doors and windows
- Original foundation
- Stone used for exterior wall
- Height, scale and massing of original the original one storey

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## **Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The property located at 6592 Concession 1, Puslinch, has cultural heritage value due to its association with German immigration to Killean, as well as holestry and entertainment around the Puslinch Lake area. The property was built around the 1860s, a short time after Frederick Begerow came to the area. The property is situated along Concession 1, where a number of other houses from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century reside. Additionally, the Inn that is located on the property served as a value and crucial piece of the Puslinch Lake community, serving a wide array of visitors. . The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

### *Design Value:*

The property is a beautiful representation of architecture brought over from Germany in during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The farmhouse is one and a half stories and features stone exterior walls, a high pitched roof, 4x4 sash and French windows, low pitched roof, and small rooms, which are all associate with the German architectural style of this period. There has been later additions added onto the original stone dwelling and the roof. (Unsure of when they were added)

### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

Frederick Begerow came to Puslinch in 1851 from Germany and settled near Puslinch Lake on Concession 1 Lot 5, where the Highland Chief Inn and farmhouse still reside. His youngest son, August, occupied the property once his father had passed away.

During the summer months, the Highland Chief Inn would be one of five hotels near Puslinch Lake that hunters, fishers, and boaters would stay at, as the lake offered an abundance of game to be caught, as well as ample room for leisure. August considered the location one of the healthiest summer resorts within Western Ontario.

The Begerow's also provided entertainment on their property while they lived there, as August was an avid accordion player and could be seen playing alongside Archibald Ramsay, William Young, and Anthony Robertson, who were all local violinists.

### *Contextual Value:*

The Begerow farmhouse is heavily connected to the surrounding areas as it forms part of the streetscape along Concession 1. What makes this property particularly interesting is the distinct

nature in which a German style house is situated between a series of primarily Scottish settler properties. The property also reflects the early establishment in Killean, particularly those of German descent. Furthermore, the Begerow property is considered a landmark as it served a variety of individuals from various parts of the Township and beyond, and resembles the importance of entertainment and holestry around Puslinch Lake.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 6614 Concession 1:

- All original doors and windows.
- Stone exterior wall.
- Original foundation.
- Height, scale and massing of the original two and one half-storey structure.

### Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The property situated at 7751 Maltby Road East, Puslinch, holds significant cultural heritage value owing to its association with the pioneering McFarlane family, who were among the earliest settlers in the vicinity of S.S. No. 10, having migrated from Scotland. Furthermore, the property is connected to the local stonemasonry tradition and showcases exceptional architectural endeavors that were prevalent in the region during the mid-19th century. Moreover, the property carries a direct association with Duncan McFarlane, a prominent figure who actively served various facets of the community. His involvement and contributions further enhance the historical significance of the property. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

### *Design Value:*

The property stands as a remarkable representation of a two-and-a-half-story residence constructed in the neoclassical style. It encompasses various features that epitomize this architectural style, such as the three-bay front façade crafted from stone, complete with quoin corners. The property showcases small-paned windows, an end gable roof, and a centrally positioned entrance adorned with sidelights and a transom. Notably, the façade of the property is meticulously constructed using fieldstone and granite, lending it a distinctive and appealing appearance.

### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

The property was established on the land originally owned by John McFarlane, the father of Duncan McFarlane. John purchased Lot 16 and part of 17 on Concession 10 upon his arrival from Perthshire, Scotland in 1834, becoming one of the early settlers in S.S. No. 10. Duncan, at the age of 16, accompanied his father to the new land and assisted in clearing the farmland (Annals of Puslinch: 1850-1950, 73).

Duncan McFarlane remained on Lot 16 and in 1870, he commissioned the construction of the present property. He employed stonemason Peter Hume, who utilized large limestone slabs from Georgetown to build the house. The property served as Duncan McFarlane's residence while he dedicated his time to various roles in the community. He served as a School Trustee, Township Councillor for twenty years, Deputy Reeve for three years, and was a Justice of the Peace member until his passing in 1892.

Following Duncan's death, his youngest son, Robert James McFarlane, took over the homestead and resided there until his own passing in 1927. By 1950, Duncan, the son of Robert, had become the occupant of the property.

The property remained within the McFarlane family for several generations until recently when it was sold. The new owners conducted sympathetic renovations, aiming to preserve the physical appearance of the property as closely as possible to its original state.

*Contextual Value:*

The property maintains a strong visual and historical connection to its surroundings, as it stands amidst numerous residences belonging to Scottish settlers in the Badenoch/Corwhin area. Its physical presence serves as a testament to the craftsmanship of local tradesmen and highlights the interplay between industries beyond Puslinch, as the building materials were sourced from nearby areas. Furthermore, the property effectively exemplifies its purpose within its immediate environment, having served as a farmhouse for the adjacent farmland owned by the McFarlane family.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 7751 Maltby Rd. E:

Duncan McFarlane:

- Original doors and windows
- Limestone and granite bricks on exterior walls
- Original foundation
- Height, scale, and massing of the original two and a half storey property

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

The property located at 6981 Concession 4, Puslinch, has cultural heritage value due to the residence located on the property having exceptional architectural craftsmanship and design, as it is an early and representative example of an "Ontario House." Its historical significance is further accentuated by its connection to early Scottish immigration, as Peter Stewart, the original property owner, was among the earliest settlers in the Township. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### *Design Value:*

The property is a remarkable and early example of a one-and-a-half-storey "Ontario House" style residence. It exhibits several features that are characteristic of this style, including a stone façade with quoins, a high-pitched roof with peaked gables, and a centred entrance adorned with sidelights and transoms. The exceptional craftsmanship displayed on the property is evident in the intricately detailed rusticated quoins and the beautifully arched lintels found on the doorway. One particularly interesting aspect of the property is the inclusion of a paired window beneath the central gable, which is a distinctive feature commonly associated with the Italianate architectural style.

#### *Historical/ Associative Value:*

The property, situated on Rear Part Lot 19, Concession 3, was originally built for Peter Stewart around 1865. Peter Stewart, an immigrant from Perthshire, Scotland, arrived in Puslinch in 1834 and settled on the very land where the current house stands. The Stewarts were among the earliest settlers in Puslinch, initially residing in a log house until the construction of the stone property.

Throughout its history, the property thrived as a prosperous farm, boasting a diverse range of animals, and yielding harvests of grain, wheat, and vegetables. It served as a hub for various agricultural activities, with Peter Stewart engaging in the production of butter, cheese, wool, and cloth.

In more recent times, the property has undergone a transformation and currently serves as the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada. Today, it continues to fulfill its role as a donkey sanctuary.

#### *Contextual Value:*

The property is an integral part of a streetscape that showcases a series of properties characterized by their unique Scottish construction style dating back to the 1860s-70s. Notably, the houses of Alexander McKay on Lot 19 Front Concession 3 and John McCormick on Lot 15 Front Concession 3 bear a striking resemblance to the Peter Stewart house in terms of their construction. Additionally, the property contributes to maintaining the distinctive character that arose from the efforts of Scottish masons in the Township. Its presence stands as a testament to the craftsmanship and construction techniques employed by Scottish settlers.

#### **Description of Heritage Attributes:**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 6981 Concession 4:

Peter Stewart House:

- Original doors and windows; including paired window
- Original foundation
- Stone bricks used in the exterior wall construction; including quoins, arched lintels
- Height, scale, and massing of the original one and a half storey property

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:**

The property located at 4556 Sideroad 20 N, Puslinch, holds significant cultural heritage value due to its early and rare construction, as it is one of the few remaining log houses in the Township. Additionally, the property is closely connected to the Scottish immigration to Puslinch and the McLennan family. Being one of the few log houses that have survived over time, the property provides a glimpse into the early architectural practices in the Township. Moreover, the property's association with Scottish immigration adds to its cultural significance. The McLennan family, who owned the property, represents a part of the Scottish community that played a role in the early establishment of Puslinch. The property meets the requirements for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

#### *Design Value:*

The homestead on the property is a rare and early example of a one-storey log house. It exhibits distinctive features that are characteristic of this architectural style. These features, which can be observed on the property, include a plain horizontal log façade with plaster chinking, an end gable roof, small paned windows, and a simple central entrance. The notches in the log construction are executed in the dovetail style. What sets this homestead apart from other log houses in the area from the 1840s-50s is its larger size, making it an unusual and noteworthy representation of its time,

#### *Historical /Associative Value:*

The property, located on Lot 20, Concession 3, was settled on by the Margaret McLennan and her family, who initially came from Scotland around 1841. The residence was constructed sometime around 1850 by Alexander, who was one of her sons.

#### *Contextual Value:*

The property, forms part of a streetscape where numerous other Scottish settler residences still stand today within the Township along Concession 3. Some of these properties include the Peter Stewart, Alexander McCaig, and John McCormick houses. Given its early construction, it visually represents the typical houses that would have been built in the area during the 1840s-50s.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following are to be considered as heritage attributes to be protected by a heritage designation by-law for 4556 Sideroad 20 N:

Margaret McLennan House:

- Original doors and windows
- Original foundation
- Wood used in the exterior wall construction
- Height, scale, and massing of one storey property

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## REPORT HER-2023-023

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TO: Heritage Advisory Committee

PREPARED BY: Laura Emery, Communications & Committee Coordinator

PRESENTED BY: Laura Emery, Communications & Committee Coordinator

MEETING DATE: November 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Plaque Replacement Update

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### RECOMMENDATION

That Report HER-2023-023 entitled Plaque Replacement Update be received for information; and,

That the Heritage Advisory Committee establish a plaque replacement sub-committee to determine priority plaques for replacement; and,

That the following members be appointed to the Plaque Replacement Sub-committee:

\_\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to establish a sub-committee to determine priority plaques for replacement.

### Background

Properties that are added to the Township's Heritage Registry receive a plaque acknowledging their historic significance to the Township. A goal and objective from the 2018-2022 Heritage Committee was to order heritage plaques to create an inventory for the replacement of existing plaques and to plaque properties added to the Township's Heritage Register.

### Comments

Based on the changes from *Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, staff recommends the Committee look at the replacement of plaques for properties that become designated. Once a property is designated, the Plaque Replacement Sub-committee can reach out to the property

owner to determine if their current heritage plaque is in disrepair. After this inventory is done, the Plaque Replacement Sub-committee can make a recommendation to the Committee with respect to the need for additional plaques. Going forward, it is staff's recommendation that only designated properties receive plaques.

Financial Implications

None

Applicable Legislation and Requirements

None

Attachments

None



## **REPORT HER-2023-024**

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TO: Heritage Advisory Committee

PREPARED BY: Laura Emery, Communications and Committee Coordinator

PRESENTED BY: Laura Emery, Communications and Committee Coordinator

MEETING DATE: November 6, 2023

SUBJECT: 2022 – 2026 Goals and Objectives Update

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That staff report HER-2023-024 entitled 2022-2026 Goals and Objectives Update be received for information.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is provide the Heritage Advisory Committee with an update on the Committee's goals and objectives.

### **Background**

The Heritage Advisory Committee has created a list of Goals and Objectives that they would like to achieve for the 2022-2026 term. Each goal and objective has a timeline and sub-committees have been established as required to support the goals/objectives. Additionally, new projects may be identified over the remainder of the term and staff will bring forward any additional goals and objectives endorsed by the Committee for Council's consideration and approval.

### **Comments**

Council approved the Heritage Advisory Committee's Goals and Objectives at the June 14, 2023 Council Meeting. Below is an update for each of the approved goals/objectives.

#### Regular Reporting to Council:

A report was brought to the June 14, 2023 Council Meeting for Council's approval and endorsement of the Heritage Advisory Committee's 2022-2026 Goals and Objectives.

The Annual Progress Report of the Heritage Advisory Committee's 2022-2026 Goals and Objectives will be brought to the December 20, 2023 Council Meeting.

### Heritage Register and Bill 23:

The Draft Statements of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest have been sent to a peer reviewer for technical review and will be provided to Council for Consideration at a future meeting date.

### Doors of Puslinch:

This goal and objective has been completed.

Doors of Puslinch posters arrived at the Township office and staff will begin advertising and selling posters in January in accordance with the goal/objective proposal approved by Council. As per the proposed 2024 User Fees and Charges By-law the posters will cost \$20 each.

### Engagement Opportunities:

The Engagement Sub-Committee will continue business as normal when the vacancy on the Heritage Advisory Committee is filled and a second member is placed on the Engagement Sub-committee.

The past three engagement opportunities discussed include:

1. Exploring use of social media:
  - i. Sharing local heritage information (e.g. Interactive Heritage Register Map, seeking property owner approval to share update photos and profiles of heritage properties)
2. In-person engagement opportunities:
  - i. Attending local events with a display to share local heritage (e.g. Aberfoyle Farmers Market, Aberfoyle Fall Fair, Family Day, etc.)
3. Expand Engage Puslinch Heritage page and Digital Archive page
  - i. Seeking property owner approval to share update photos and profiles of heritage properties
  - ii. Engage with owners of designated properties for inclusion on the Interactive Heritage Register Map and Digital Archive
  - iii. Consider how to account for properties that are currently included by will become delisted from the Heritage Register in 2025

With respect to the Heritage Summer Student in 2024, no ideas have been submitted at the time of publishing the agenda. Staff suggest a project for the 2024 Summer Student is to investigate engagement opportunities in Puslinch including ways to promote the historical properties while providing information to the public on the Puslinch Land Acknowledgement.

Financial Implications

None

Applicable Legislation and Requirements

None

Attachments

Schedule A – 2022-2026 Heritage Advisory Committee Goals and Objectives

## Schedule A

## 2022-2023 Goals and Objectives

Goal/Objective	Sub-Committee	Budget	Person(s) Responsible	2022-2026 Status/Timeline Update
Regular Reporting To Council	N	N	Committee Coordinator to draft reports on behalf of the Committee regarding their Goals and Objectives	Spring Report – Complete  Annual progress update of approved Goals/Objectives – December 20, 2023 Council Meeting
Doors of Puslinch Poster	Y	Y	Sub-Committee to implement Doors of Puslinch Poster program	Completed
Heritage Register and Bill 23	N	Y	Committee Coordinator to advise committee of conference registration for Community Heritage Ontario Conference and National Trust Conference	This goal and objective is updated in report HER-2023-017.
Engagement Opportunities	Y	N	Sub-Committee to look for opportunities to increase awareness of heritage initiatives and education	Once sub-committee has two members, sub-committee will meet to develop plan for committee's approval.

## Puslinch Historical Society

### FOUNDING

An exploratory meeting was held in October 1983 and the Puslinch Historical Society, a group operated by volunteers, was formed in early 1984.

Our mandate is to collect, preserve and disseminate the history of Puslinch Township.

### ARCHIVES

The group's major project is its archives. It is located in the Aberfoyle Library and is opened to the public, by Historical Society volunteers, every Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. or, if that is not convenient, by special arrangement with a volunteer. The archive contains an excellent, comprehensive collection of Puslinch history and genealogy, to which members continue to add.

### ENQUIRIES

The Historical Society receives enquiries by phone, by letter and by e-mail, as well as from visitors to the archives. Questions have come from Scotland, England, Germany, Florida, Virginia, New York City, California, Kansas, Oregon, across the Canadian West and many places in Ontario and locally. Historical Society volunteers draw on the archives to respond to these queries.

### PUBLICATIONS

The Historical Society published two books by member, Anna Jackson, "David Stirton" and "Puslinch Lake and Its Past", also "The McPhatter Letters", a collection of interviews in 1897, and "Puslinch Profiles, 1850-2000", a group effort written to commemorate the township's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Individual members have also authored books on Puslinch, for which the Historical Society has held book launches.

As well, our writers have had many articles on township history published in both "The Puslinch Pioneer" and "Puslinch Today".

### EVENTS

The Historical Society volunteers bring displays to the Canada Day breakfast and to Aberfoyle Fair.

"Spirit Walks" featuring stories about selected early Puslinch inhabitants. Read at their gravesites in Puslinch cemeteries and historical walks in villages and on streets were popular. Meetings have presented interesting guest speakers.

#### FUNDRAISING

The Society has held several book sales in order to raise operating funds and to find homes for books, which we could not retain.

Generous donations have also helped to sustain our work.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

The Historical Society acquired a website in 2002.

A newsletter, currently published twice a year, updates interested parties on our activities and our acquisitions.

#### SUMMER 2023

The PHS received a donation of hundreds of books from the former Morriston Public Library (defunct 1956), which were inventoried by the Archivist and a Planning Committee volunteer.

#### WELCOME

Heritage Committee members are welcome to visit the Historical Society Archives any Saturday between noon and 3 p.m. or, if that is not convenient, by special arrangement by contacting [ardyne.farm@sympatico.ca](mailto:ardyne.farm@sympatico.ca)