

# HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Community Outreach</i>	1
<i>Waterdown Legion</i>	2
<i>Lottridge –Cummer Trunk</i>	3
<i>Threads Through the Past</i>	4
<i>Treasures from the Archives</i>	5
<i>President's Message</i>	6
<i>Local Society Websites</i>	6

### We encourage our members to Volunteer:

- At Outreach events
- As a Board Member
- At the Archives
- As a "Phone Helper"
- With newsletter articles

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Nov 4th 27th Annual Book Fair

The Book Fair was again well attended and the Society had record sales of their publications. 15 local authors were on hand to discuss and sign their books.

**It is not too late to purchase one of this years "Best Sellers" for Christmas gifts.**

- [Connecting the Dots—Snapshots of Flamborough Communities](#)
- [The Extraordinary History of Flamborough](#)

Visit the new website to purchase online

[FlamboroughHistory.com](http://FlamboroughHistory.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

Special thanks to Sue McNally who manned a Society table at the Carlisle Artisans & Vendors sale on Saturday Nov 25—and sold a lot of books!!

### Library Talks

### Oct 26th

An evening of fun at the library was entitled "Quirky Flamborough". Among other stories, attendees learned about the famous Blue Alligator found only on the Waterdown Wetland trail, a horseradish farmer who washed his produce in his washing machine, and the Waterdown Wraith who terrorized the village in the summer of 1934.

### Nov 7th

A Library Talk focusing on the Waterdown Memorials - The Hall, Park, The Cenotaph, various trees, benches and plaques, etc. was cancelled due to lack of registrants. How unfortunate that a programme arranged for the remembrance of our Veterans was so poorly received. Please try to support the Society's ongoing outreach events.



### Nov. 5th

Nathan and Lyn had another successful afternoon at the Fire Walk. Due to the poor weather, it was held indoors at True North Gallery and they could not have



been nicer! About 25 people attended and had lots of questions, so it was fun, informative and inclusive. Afterward everyone enjoyed snacks—s'more squares, other chocolate stuff, and apple cider from Drummond Orchards. Bet you wish you had been there!

## The Royal Canadian Legion of Waterdown: A Brief History

Heritage Paper # 269

The Royal Canadian Legion is an institution that has served Canadians for over ninety years. Originally called “the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Services League,” it was established in Winnipeg in 1925 from the Dominion Veterans Alliance. It was incorporated by letters patent through the Companies Act on 17 July 1926 and received its “royal” suffix from the Crown in 1961. Originally a representative body for veterans of the First World War, the Legion has since taken on a wide range of responsibilities for not only veterans, but for local communities as well. The Royal Canadian Legion’s Waterdown branch (551) has undoubtedly been an invaluable institution for the town, as well as a proud part of its heritage.



The Waterdown Legion was established in 1954, with Harold Place as its first president. The early members of the Legion met in Bert L. Clute’s barber shop on Dundas Street before the first headquarters was built in 1955. The Legion’s first location was on the corner of Hamilton Street and Cedar Street in a Quonset hut. Named after where they were

manufactured (Quonset Point, Rhode Island), Quonset huts were a popular structure during the Second World War because of its prefabricated design that enabled quick and efficient construction. The hut was officially opened as the headquarters of the Waterdown Legion with a ceremony on 8 September 1956. With the new location came the establishment of the Ladies Auxiliary with Jeanne Klodt as its first president.

The Legion existed at this site until 10 September 1976, when it moved to its current location across the street on White Oak Drive. The Legion essentially became the town’s community centre, offering itself as a venue for a variety of events and charitable fundraisers such as boxing matches, dart tournaments, bingo nights, farmer’s markets, club



meetings, and various fundraisers. For many Millennials, the Legion will always be remembered as the venue of the Friday night dances from their youth, which the Legion has hosted since 1963. For all age demographics, the Legion is truly the centre of the community on Remembrance Day, where ceremonies are carried out annually to honour Canada’s service personnel in the past and present. The Legion’s cenotaph and iconic Bofors Q.F. 40mm anti-aircraft gun strikes an impressive display, symbolizing a violent past with the hopes of a peaceful future.

In April 1917, Lieutenant Leslie H. Miller, a soldier with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, sent acorns from Vimy Ridge home to Canada with instructions to plant them. Saplings from these trees have been distributed across Canada as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. On June 16, 2017 a sapling ‘Vimy Oak’ Tree was planted on Legion property, at the corner of White Oaks Drive and Hamilton Street North. This was a joint project of the Waterdown Legion and the Flamborough Horticultural Society and is a living memorial to the Canadian soldiers who served in the First World War.

Councillor Judi Partridge in concert with the Waterdown Legion Branch 551 has proposed a cultural heritage designation for the tree. A cultural heritage assessment report has been done and presented to the Heritage Planning Committee and it is hoped that Hamilton City Council will approve this designation.

William D. Kearney  
Student Archivist, Flamborough Archives

The Archives received the trunk (shown below) and an accompanying email  
Thank you Murray Aikman



"The pictures above are images of an old trunk which I speculate may have belonged to Rachael Catherine Lottridge (July 5, 1831 - April, 1864) of Waterdown. It has been in my mother's family (Cummer, of Waterdown) for many years. In 1849 Rachael married Lockman A. Cummer (1827 - 1907). My mother (Elizabeth Cummer, 1910 - 1995) was Rachael's great granddaughter.

John Cummer, father of Lockman, had come from Willowdale, Ont. to Waterdown in the 1840s and settled in Smokey Hollow. Lockman arrived in the area in 1846. He, and his father-in-law, Robert Lottridge became partners and they purchased the Smokey Hollow lot and mill.

According to what I have found out thus far, Rachael was the daughter of Robert Lottridge (1807 - 1890) and Sarah Bates who married in 1829. Robert Lottridge, in turn, was the son of William Lottridge (1775 - 1858) who had married Mary Showers in 1800.

William Lottridge was the son of Loyalist, Robert L. Lottridge (1747 - 1790) who had married Marie Winnegar. Robert had originally been granted land (late 1780s) upon which Dundurn National Historic Site now sits. Apparently, Richard Beasley had squatted on the property and secured it for himself following Robert's death in 1790.

On either end of the trunk are 2 very hard to read labels. I believe one indicates the name of "Cummer - Grand Rapids Michigan" and the other also indicates the name, "Albert Cummer ?? - Canada West". Perhaps these labels were used to indicate destinations for a trip between here (Canada West) and the U.S.A. Albert was the name of my mother's father and he was the grandson of Rachael Catharine Lottridge Cummer."

"

(\*\*If you wish to donate a small artifact, please contact Lyn at [flamach@hpl.ca](mailto:flamach@hpl.ca) to determine if we have space)

### Congratulations to Society members Sylvia Wray and Nathan Tidridge !



They were recently awarded the 'Canada 150 Nation Builder' Award, presented to them by M.P. David Sweet at a ceremony on November 18th at Copetown Woods Golf & Country Club. Sylvia was honoured for her decades of dedication to the Flamborough Archives. Nathan received his for his passion and dedication to history education.

Photo Courtesy Julia Lovett, Flamborough Review



---

# THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

## Military History

One of the larger projects that the Flamborough Archives has undertaken is to document each veteran of the First World War, who lived in Flamborough. This has been ongoing for over a decade and we are now up to over 700 names.

When this project started, online resources were not nearly as exhaustive as they are now and it took a lot of digging to find information. In most cases the information we have on each veteran includes birth, death and marriage information, copies of their attestation papers, and copies of the census records showing their place of residence over the years. In the odd case, we have a photograph.

As we go further along, we hope to add more information to our spreadsheets to show the place of burial and a grave reference, and which campaigns the veteran was part of. We realized this year that we had no easy way to single out those who had fought at Vimy, or any other campaign.

Our information is recorded in various forms in several places. We have binders with a page of information for each veteran, summarizing the basic details as listed above. The majority of the information is contained in paper documents in our vertical files, one file per veteran. Lastly we have a spreadsheet with their name, regimental number, the vital statistics and columns for the burial and campaign information we hope to add to each person.

One of our summer students this year researched Boer War veterans in Flamborough and managed to find ten of them.

Previous summer student projects have produced information on the War of 1812, a C.E.F. Honor Roll Listing for the Flamborough Area, and a paper on Nursing Sisters.

The best place to start researching a WW I veteran is at Library and Archives Canada. They have been digitizing the complete military file for each veteran and most of them are now online—they even include the front and back of the envelope!

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Pages/introduction.aspx>

LAC also has about 130,000 Death Notification cards. These were created when Veterans Affairs was notified of the death of a WW I veteran. These cards contain some or all of: Regimental Service number, rank, unit, battalion or regiment, date and place of death, cause of death and place of burial. <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/veterans-death-cards-ww1/Pages/veterans-death-cards.aspx>

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission also has a terrific website <https://www.cwgc.org/> and has grave registration reports which provide basic details of the individuals, such as name, service number, rank, regiment, unit and date of death, and are listed in Plot, Row and Grave order.

There are a couple of other websites worth checking out. The [Canadian Military Heritage Project](#) contains information and links to information on most of the rebellions and conflicts Canada has been involved in, from the French and Indian War (1754-1763) to the war in Afghanistan and various peacekeeping missions.

Lastly, the [Canadian Great War Project](#) has a wealth of information, with links to war diaries, information on veterans and nursing sisters, newspaper clippings, statistics, and over 5000 photos—a fantastic website.

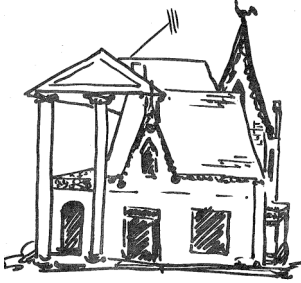
Our collection includes a number of publications which could be useful if you are looking for information on the various cemeteries, airmen, CEF information, etc. We would happy to help!



The 129th Battalion at Sealey Park, Waterdown c. 1915

---

# TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES



## **BEGINNERS GUIDE TO HOUSE WATCHING**

Do not read this if you want to be able to distinguish between Neo-Gothic and Gothic or date a house as being built in January 1848. Of you want to enjoy looking at buildings and taking a guess at whether houses are old, real old or ancient, whether they were built as they stand complete or a jigsaw puzzle of generations of additions and adjustments, here are a few suggestions of what to look for and have fun

Please do not take any suggestions as architectural truth— just leads to your own personal guessing game. Remember we are not talking about anything after the First World War.

### The Angle of the Roof Line

Generally speaking the older the building the flatter the roof.

### Decorative Trim

The goopier, the newer—when there was time, money and machinery there were practically contests on how complicated you could make lace-like trim (cheese). If earlier homes had trim, they were usually made by blacksmiths and necessarily simple but charming.

### Verandahs and Plan

After you have decided in your own mind the difference between a verandah, a stoop and a porch—no one seems to agree— start looking at these outside appendages, their pillars, posts and railings. Your early houses seldom had verandahs. They really came into style in the 1840-60's; after that they were either taken off or fell down. The outline of the roof, however, can often be seen on the wall. If houses looked slightly naked and disproportionately high, try adding a verandah in your mind. Does it look better? Again elaborate often means new, but restraint often shows a feeling for elegance in any age. The older houses are always symmetrical in plan. Later houses are almost always asymmetrical.

### Building Material

Wood being plentiful, cheaper and brick more expensive, brick houses are often late Victorian or Edwardian, but watch it! When you see a simple low-angled roof, brick houses or cottages, look at the chimney. If they used brick at all at first, they built the chimney. If the wall brick does not match the chimney brick, one might suspect that the house was once wood and as we tend to use commercial siding to insulate or jazz up an old house, way back then they put one layer of brick veneer on, usually after removing the wooden skin, but not always.

Stone has always been pretty expensive relative to income and there were always fewer stone masons than carpenters. A stone house is generally a pretty old house if small, and perhaps built later by the more affluent, if large.

### Stucco

Watch it! All kind of old houses have stucco covering—thick rubble walls— some stucco on frame. All are hard to maintain. You see you can play with texture in stucco so that they are often scored to imitate cut stone or cement blocks.

### Doors and Windows

These are fascinating and often difficult to date. Fan lights over doors, side lights of glass, stained glass in doors or surrounding them, plain doors, panel doors, doorways apparently supported by pillars—the variety is infinite. Here you get into all the problems of style. Is it Georgian, Neo-Classic, Regency, Greek Revival or what have you? Most people only recognize Gothic because churches abound in this style. Any good illustrated dictionary will get you started. Some people collect pictures of doors and windows like others collect stamps, and a mental collection is fun.

P.S. Look at barns and outbuildings. They are often older than the house and often more interesting.

P.P.S. If you see a large rambly house, try and find the original building that has had numerous additions.

P.P.P.S. Look up, especially in business areas. The last piece to be modernized is the top—you won't believe what you see up there. Just be sure someone else is driving. Have fun!

*(Produced for the Waterdown Centennial Fall Festival  
Saturday, September 16th, 1978)*

**Waterdown-East Flamborough  
Heritage Society**

P.O.Box 1044  
163 Dundas Street E.  
Waterdown, ON

Phone: 905-540-5161

Society E-mail: [wefhs@hpl.ca](mailto:wefhs@hpl.ca)

Archives E-mail: [flamach@hpl.ca](mailto:flamach@hpl.ca)

Website: [FlamboroughHistory.com](http://FlamboroughHistory.com)

**Officers 2017–2018**

President: Chris Rivait

1st Vice President:

Corrie Giles

2nd Vice President:

Carol Snell

Secretary: Sue McNally

Treasurer: Lyn Lunsted

Past-President:

Nathan Tidridge

**Board Members**

Bailey Cripps

Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst, Newsletter



## NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

One the great things about being back in town is that more and more the Society is asked to join in community events. However, with only 9 Directors and Executives of the Society it is difficult to attend everything. As they say, many hands make light work— well we are asking for more hands on the Board of Directors. We put on the annual book fair, 6 public meetings, attend Ribfest, BIA events, library events and the list could continue. This list may seem long, but the time commitment is not much.

The board meets every second Wednesday night of each month at the Archives in the library for about an hour. This is the largest commitment, after that you can pick whatever else you are interested in helping with. Please think about joining us as we would really love to be able to share more of our local history with the community.

Since the Book Fair is our largest fundraiser for the Society, we will be sending out a survey to help us understand what we can do to improve the Book Fair next year. Please fill out the anonymous form, so we can provide the best event that people want.

Chris Rivait , President

---

### AREA SOCIETY WEBSITES

The **Ancaster Township Historical Society** - [www.ancasterhistory.ca](http://www.ancasterhistory.ca)

The **Burlington Historical Society** - [www.burlingtonhistorical.ca](http://www.burlingtonhistorical.ca).

The **Dundas Valley Historical Society** - [Www.dundashistory.ca](http://Www.dundashistory.ca)

The **Grimsby Historical Society** - [Grimsby Historical Society](http://Grimsby Historical Society).

The **Hamilton Historical Board** - [www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca](http://www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca)

The **Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society** - [Head of the Lake Historical Society](http://Head of the Lake Historical Society)

The **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Hamilton Branch** - [www.uel.com](http://www.uel.com)

The **West Lincoln Historical Society** - [www.wlhs.info](http://www.wlhs.info)