

# HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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I hope you enjoy  
the "lighter" side of  
History

## January Public Meeting

We are happy to start the new year off with a talk by a well known historian— Jonathan Vance. A native of Waterdown,



he is a Distinguished University Professor and J.B. Smallman Chair in the Department of History at Western University, where he teaches military history, Canadian

history, and social memory. He is the author of several books on military history and is co-director of the educational website WarTime Canada: A Window into the Canadian Experience during the World Wars ([www.wartimecanada.ca](http://www.wartimecanada.ca)).

He will be speaking on 1918 in Flamborough and the transition from war to peace.

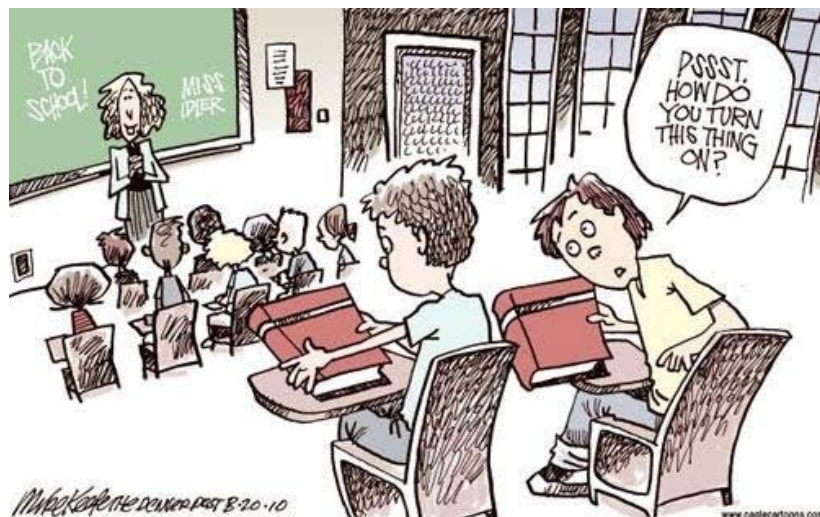
**St. James United Church,  
Fellowship Hall**

**306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown**

**Friday, January 26, 2018**

**8 PM**

**Free admission All are welcome!  
BRING A FRIEND!!!**



## Westfield Heritage Village

Rockton, Ontario

Heritage Paper # 270

There is something quite relaxing about walking through a village with no telephone poles, no loud highways and the soft clip-clop of horses hooves on the gravel path; that is the experience at Westfield Heritage Village. The village has been around for over 50 years and is greatly enjoyed by those who attend.

The village was founded by two Brantford school teachers, D. Glenn Kilmer and Goldie MacDonell, who, in 1960, bought the land that Westfield now occupies. Their goal was to create a center for preserving the 19<sup>th</sup> century atmosphere of rural Upper Canada and educating the future generations. The village was officially opened on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1964 with 7 buildings on site, all of which are still there to this day. The village grew larger over the years and now consists of more than 35 buildings that span



Main Street, all buildings date 1900-1925

200 years of Canadian history. The buildings were moved from all over Ontario; Beverly, Brantford, Binbrook, Troy, West Hamilton, Ancaster, Dundas and the Six Nations Reserve to name a few. The village is now owned and staffed by the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Westfield is almost entirely staffed by incredible volunteers. The interpreters, who give historical information on specific houses or areas of the village, go through many training sessions in order to give guests the most entertaining and authentic experience possible. They learn how to choose costumes appropriate for their historical period, go through fire and safety training and have options to learn more difficult tasks such as open hearth cooking or cooking in a stone oven. Many of the volunteers, who are placed in houses like the D'Aubigny Inn or the Blacksmiths house, go to the extra effort of cooking historically accurate recipes in order to give

guests a new experience, and some delicious treats!

The other side of volunteering at the village is through the 'Friends of Westfield'. They are a not for profit organization dedicated to the support of Westfield Heritage Village. They organize many fundraisers on behalf of the village, such as their very popular murder mystery dinner. The plant sales and the many dinners that pop up throughout the year are also put on by the 'Friends of Westfield.'

Westfield hosts a variety of special events throughout the year. 'Telling Tales' is the largest, and focuses on bringing Canadian authors, musicians and illustrators together to inspire a love of reading in younger generations. There are also special events for most holidays: Halloween, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter and so on. Each will have its own centerpiece activities but there are always horse drawn wagon rides to take guests around the village to view it from a different perspective. Their season begins with the Maple Syrup Festival that takes place during March break, outlining the use and history of maple syrup during the pioneer era in Canada. There are demonstrations of the different methods of sap collection and creation of maple syrup and maple sugar.



Westfield Ice Cream Carnival



Bamberger House - built around 1810

They also hold an Ice Cream Carnival during the August long weekend, which showcases the traditional, pioneer way of making the delicious treat. Guests are invited to try their hand at hand cranking ice cream and trying exotic flavours of ice cream, such as rosewater.

There is no doubt the village is famous for its plethora of events but the attraction to many of the guests is the buildings, which set the scene of early life in Upper Canada. While all of the buildings are truly spectacular, there are a few that seem to draw larger crowds. The oldest house on the grounds is the Queen's Rangers Cabin which was built along Gover-



nors Road, when the Queens Rangers were constructing the road. It was built around 1792 and is believed to be one of the oldest preserved log structures in Ontario. One of the favorite buildings to visit at Westfield is the General Store, built around 1848. Stepping inside the building truly feels like you have gone back in time. There is candy of all shapes and sizes and, a personal favourite, rock candies in all the colours of the rainbow. Just down the road from the General Store, you can hear the bell ringing at the school house. This is another very popular house to visit as an authentic school has been set up inside, complete with slate chalkboards to practice school exercises, a dunce cap in the corner and a handmade switch perched on the school masters desk.

Westfield is often used for period movies and television shows. It was used extensively in the 1985

movie adaption of 'Anne of Green Gables'. Many of the buildings were used in the movie and the village offers a tour that is specifically geared to fans of the film and the novel. The saw mill, church, train station and general store were all used in the set.

Westfield Heritage Village is an old gem in a world of ever changing surroundings. The dedication to authenticity that Westfield Heritage Village has is quite admirable and makes for an encompassing experience.

**For more information visit:**

**<https://westfieldheritage.ca/>**

*Rosemary Giles  
Student Archivist*

## Fallen Comrades

In 2017, we lost two long time friends and contributors to the Flamborough Historical Society.

### February 7, 2017

Peter Vance passed after a battle with cancer. As previously printed, Peter was a founding member and the first president of the Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society in 1973.



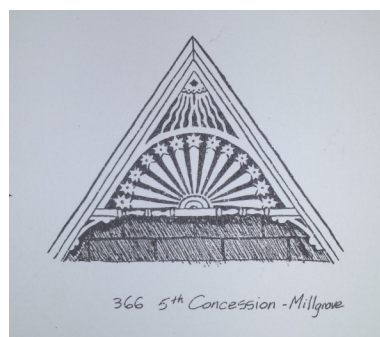
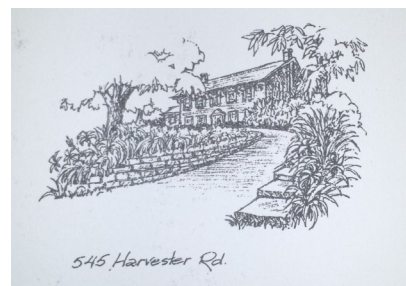
### December 4, 2017

Patricia Green (nee Moody) passed peacefully at Cama Woodlands Nursing Home, Burlington, in her 86th year. Loving wife of the late Maurice Green (2011).

Patricia began her career as a commercial artist doing technical drawings for handbooks. Later, her work included fashion and product illustrations for advertising. Several years spent with

the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority producing publications and displays sparked a keen interest in the outdoors. She spent countless hours sketching the local scene using pen and ink or pencil to portray natural areas, plants and old structures.

Patricia was a major contributor to many of the Heritage Society publications, adding her beautiful architectural drawings of buildings and their details.



## THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

Family scrapbooks and papers are often sources of information not found anywhere else. The Flamborough Archives is very lucky to have had a number of scrapbooks donated over the years and they are filled with newspaper clippings and personal notes which add interest and facts to various events.

Recently we were given a copy of an unpublished manuscript, written by Paul Maycock, a local botanist and long time member of the Flamborough Heritage Society until his passing in 2012. His manuscript is a tongue-in-cheek look at Flamborough and Waterdown and while the names of many of the local 'characters' have been changed, they are very identifiable—as he meant them to be.



Early chapters depict his version of the history of Waterdown, vividly told with wit and humour.

*"Davies heading mill stood amid the core centre of beautiful Waterdown. The saw which hacked out the barrel heads produced a great mass of tangled refuse. When the boiler used to produce the steam to run the saw spit out a mass of sparks into the yard, it caught fire as it frequently did, just after noon on Thursday May 23 in 1922. The problem that fatal day was that the few men in the yard failed in their efforts to extinguish the fire and in a short interval the fire spread from the heading mill to the roller skating rink nearby. It was frame and with an east wind blowing it went up explosively. The fire then went to Alton's Garage and in quick order engulfed McGregor's Hall, a butcher shop and Orley*

*Griffin's house and store. With unbelievable force it jumped Dundas Street and consumed the barber shop, drug store and general store. Finally a large steel garage, with nothing but the door and windows trimmed in wood that contained three cars which had not been evacuated because the steel was certain to prevent burning, went sky high when an ignited barrel of oil rolled out of Griffin's store and across the road. By three o'clock barely two hours later, the scenic historic centre of Waterdown had been reduced to a flattened smoldering vacuum. "*

Like many long time residents of any small village, people want things to stay the same as they were 'in the old days'.

*"We have plenty of foreigners in Waterdown. We not only have foreigners who have moved in from Toronto and Montreal and Winnipeg but also foreigners from Hamilton, Oakville, Burlington, Guelph and other nearby cities. People from these spots are always driving through the Village just hoping a building of any kind might become vacant, so that they can buy and move in. We also have foreigners from the nether parts of East and West Flamborough Townships who have also invaded our fair Hamlet—people from Flamborough Centre, Bakersville, Carlisle, Kilbride, Mountsberg, Progreton, Westover, Millgrove, Strabane, Kirkwall, Clappison's Corners and even from as far away as Troy and Peter's Corners. They are converging on Waterdown from all directions of the compass. Talk about your cosmopolitanism! "*

The manuscript is filled with stories and anecdotes. Some of these are local legends and some fill out details of stories told down through the years. One of these is about a vacant house, long a subject of speculation.

*"One of the bachelor brothers started courting one of the local upcountry girls and she accepted his proposal of marriage. On land the family owned across from the homestead he had a marvellous brick home constructed in Victorian style. The wedding plans were all in motion and the house was almost completed when she unexpectedly changed her mind. As long as he lived the house was never occupied. It remained vacant until after he passed on and the land was inherited by a woman on the adjacent farm. For many long years it has stood as a reminder of a jilted bachelor or one frustrated in love. People in these parts take such things seriously."*

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## TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES



**1964 WPS Grade 8 Graduation Class**

**Back row left to right:**

Peter Helder, Robert Ireland, Robert Hardwick, Gary Hicks, Wayne Vervaeke, Terry Lehigh, Robert Keats, James Smith, Gregory Hensher, Ron Keller, Danny Patterson, Ken Jones, Francis Scanlon

**2nd from last row left to right:**

Sherrie Hodgins, Marilyn Allen, Corry Davis, Lonore Schneider, Katherine Smythe, Wendy Carr, Caroline Hopper, Karen Atkins, Carol Hardwick, June Griffin, Jane Binkley

**3rd from last row left to right:**

Harry Wong, Carl Thomson, Frank Walsh, Ian Branston, Kurt Robson, William Allen, Larry Jarvis, Gary Guenther, Fred Krestynski, Robert King, James Griffiths, Douglas Pynn, Antoine De Gids

**4th from last row left to right:**

Mr. Bob Catchpole, Bonnie Horvat, Barbara Kirkpatrick, Sharon Hamilton, Holly Thomas, Mr. George Brickwood, Marilyn Gingrich, Connie Law, Janet Lockington, Bonnie Sheridan, Pamela Mills, Mr. Barry Monroe

**Front row left to right:**

Gertrude Dikkeboom, Marnie Johnson, Lynn Glover, Thomas Barrett, Alan Baynton, Kathy Hutton, Eva Paul, Carol Smith, Carol Oldfield

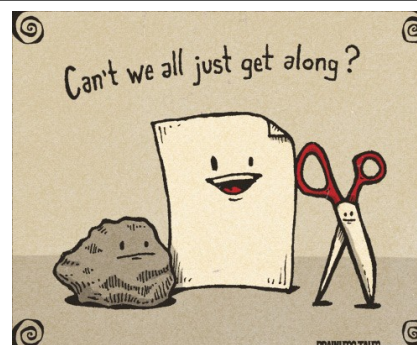
**Absent:** Craig Newell, Alec White, Barbara Taylor, Betty Metcalf, Esther Elliot

*This picture was posted on the Waterdown Memories Facebook page. Larry Jarvis provided us with the names of the students. Thanks, Larry*

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## YOU ARE PROBABLY RELATED TO EVERYONE

Dick Eastman reported on his blog this month about a Stephen Johnson article in the BigThink website. Stephen contends that people of European Descent need only go back 600 years to find a common ancestor, and everyone alive in the world today has a common ancestor who lived about 3600 years ago. You'd think we'd get along better!





**Waterdown-East Flamborough  
Heritage Society**

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**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

Happy New Year! We must have been good this year, because the Society received a Christmas present! Just before Christmas, we found out that we have been awarded the New Horizons for Seniors grant of \$12,000. We put this grant application together so that we could purchase a dry mount press machine and display units.

With these displays, we will create presentations to take to Seniors Homes, Community Centres, Churches, Schools and gathering places in the area. We want to make sure that we can share our local history with more people in the community by leaving them in central locations where others can learn and engage more easily. We are looking forward to bringing you great exhibits that you can enjoy in the coming year.

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://GrimsbyHistoricalSociety).

**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://HeadoftheLakeHistoricalSociety)

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)