

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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Upcoming Local Events

June 30—September 30

Finding Your Way—Feature Exhibit at the Dundas Museum and Archives.

Explore maps from the late 18th Century to current day.

August 18, 2018 2:00 pm

Waterdown Union Cemetery.
Unveiling of Loyalist Burial Site Plaque in honour of Jacob Bastedo, UE.

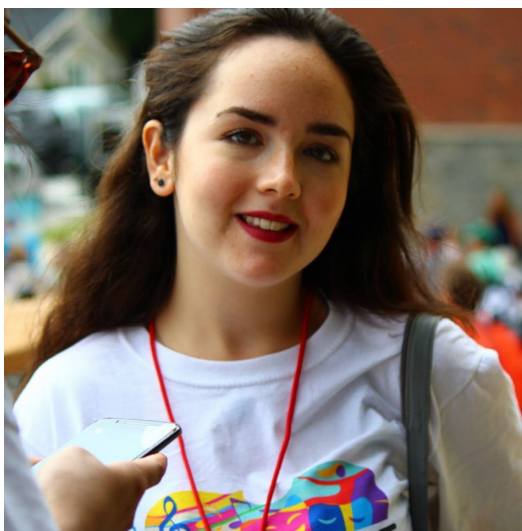
Summer Endeavours!

Our Archives is privileged to have hired outstanding students again this summer.

Shauna Deathe is a student studying English and Indigenous Studies under a Teacher's Education stream at Trent University in Peterborough.

She is a Waterdown local, born and bred.

Shauna will be responsible for the writing of next year's Heritage Papers, so we can look forward to some fabulous information to come.



Lisa Jefferies returns to us for the third summer as a "special" hire using our government grant from New Horizons for Seniors for Outreach.

Lisa is also a Waterdown girl, attending the University of Toronto as a Masters student in Museum Studies.

Lisa has been compiling an impressive collection of exhibits for the Society's new display panels. (See some of her work, featured on page 5)

"Why on earth are you stabbing your salad?"

"I'm making it a Caesar salad."



Are We Victorians?

Heritage Paper # 274

As Waterdown grows in population and expands in size, there are many who are uncomfortable with the possibility of it growing into an escarpment metropolis. As a result, preserving its heritage as a quaint, primarily English, milling village has only become more important over time. More specifically, Waterdown has been labeled as a “Victorian Village” in attempts to demonstrate continuity from a romanticized period of British history, rather than presenting its own quirky past. This leads to an important question: what does it mean to be a “Victorian Village?”



Alexandrina Victoria, daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, reigned as Queen of the United Kingdom from the death of William IV on 20 June 1837 until her own passing on 22 January 1901. During her reign, the British Empire possessed the most territory it would ever have, ruling over as much as 20% of the world's population by the fin de siècle. It has been admired as a period of progress and elegance, driven by an evangelical ideology of hard work and good faith. Simultaneously, it was also the most destructive phase of Britain's Imperial Century towards those it colonized, driven by a pretentious concept of spreading “superior” Anglo-Saxon civilization under the guise of “benevolence.” It should be obvious

GEORGE III 1760-1820
GEORGE IV 1820-30
WILLIAM IV 1830-1837
VICTORIA 1837-1901

that Waterdown's Victorian title is not attributed to imperial triumphalism. Rather, it was Waterdown's formal amalgamation as a township in 1878 that earned it the monarch's brand. This line of logic permits labeling Canada as a “Victorian Nation” but such a title would be abhorred in this day of vehement inclusivity.

Does the history support the heritage? Alexander Brown is considered to be the first settler in the area who made use of his land grant, who developed his land holdings between 1802 and 1804. By 1804 Brown had two saw mills on Grindstone Creek and later built a one-room log cabin school house on the corner of Mill Street and Dundas Street in 1815 (where the American House is today). Ebenezer Griffin, who some credit with naming the town based on a cringe worthy story of teetotaler mockery, purchased a section of Brown's holdings and built a flour mill and saw mill by 1827. Plans for the town were drafted by Griffin in 1831 and by 1835 the area had reached a population of approximately 175. While Waterdown's origins are before Victoria's reign, it irrefutably had its real growth spurts in the second half of the century.

Can Waterdown be considered a Georgian or William-ian village then? Why name it after a monarch at all? A simple answer is because Victoria represents Britain's most recent golden age and Waterdown should revel in that proud past. Another interpretation is that the term “Victorian” has taken on a variety of meanings, some which have nothing to do with the Queen at all. Regardless, the effort to sell the Victorian label in the mid-2000s was reactionary to the town's expansion and growth. The benefit of hindsight often makes the past appear to be an appealing and safe place to live. But this assumes that the past is *knowable* simply because it has already occurred. The result of this is often an overly rosy interpretation of the past, especially when faced with a future filled with uncertainty. No living person actually has memory of Waterdown in its Victorian days, yet there are people who undoubtedly feel nostalgic about what they think it used to be.

Perhaps there is a hope that the architecture of the original village could be

classed as Victorian. Houses built in the mid to late years of Victoria's reign had unique characteristics. The houses were narrow and tall, often on full basements, they had towers and turrets, decorative trim and large bay windows sometimes filled with stained glass or topped



with stained glass panels. If they were individual dwellings, the houses were often asymmetrical in design. Often these were row houses, such as the 'Painted Ladies' in San Francisco. While there are a few houses in Waterdown this style could apply to, the majority of the village does not.

It is unlikely that visitors to Waterdown's or its inhabitants have given the Victorian Village label much thought. Perhaps the same can be said for those who chose to give it the label. Admittedly, it is harmless; the meaning of Victorian depends on the interpreter. As well, it is not to say that Waterdown has a dark, shameful past that no one is acknowledging. Waterdown has a unique past, one worth studying without lumping it in with broader historical movements. But to refer to Waterdown as a Victorian Village is both anti-modern and pessimistic of what it could potentially become.

By William D. Kearney, Student Archivist

(For reference purposes, I have been heavily influenced by historians such as Jay Winter, David Lowenthal, and Stephen Heathorn.)

FLAMBOROUGH FUN FACTS

The home of John and Ada Vance was at the bottom of Board Street, and happened to be the perfect location for a railway station. This large white house was the Waterdown South Railway station for almost forty years, from 1912 to 1950. After 1950, passenger trains no longer stopped at this station, and it was closed in 1962. The Dundas Street (HWY #5) bridge over the tracks was reconstructed in the mid 1960's and the crew used the building as an office. When construction was finished, Council ordered that the building be demolished but someone/vandals? Beat them to it. The building was the victim of arson, and burned to the ground on June 23, 1966, ending the link to the passenger railway in Waterdown.



View this painting at your Archives

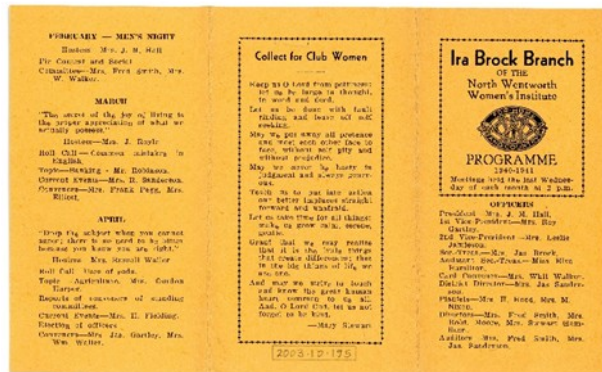
THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

Tweedsmuir Community History Books

Lord Tweedsmuir was Governor-General of Canada from 1935 to 1940. Born John Buchan in Scotland in 1874, he and his wife Susan were both writers. His most famous book "39 Steps" was the basis for a movie of the same name, directed by Alfred Hitchcock. His wife wrote mainly plays and children's books. She was a member of the Women's Institute in England and took great interest in the Women's Institutes of Canada.

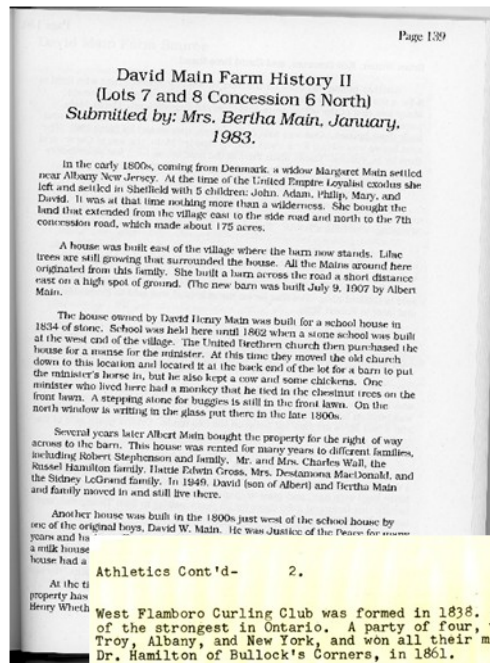
The idea of WI members writing the histories of farms, buildings and places of interest at the local level began in the mid-1920s. In 1925, the Committee for Historical Research and Current Events was formed and suggested that more time be given to the study of local history. Lady Tweedsmuir stressed the need to preserve the history and development of Canada – the land, the people, customs and activities. She suggested that WI groups start to keep detailed records of local history, as their English counterparts did. In 1940 these were called 'The Tweedsmuir Village History Books'. It seemed fitting that these would be a perfect project for the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Institute in 1947 and every branch was encouraged to create their history book for the anniversary. In 1947 these were officially renamed 'Tweedsmuir History Books', which now reside in various libraries, archives and with local Women's Institutes across the country.



The Flamborough Archives is fortunate to be the repository of several of these histories. Some of the Branches are no longer active, or have donated the early histories while they continue to work on more recent books. Our holdings include the original books for Strabane, Millgrove, Mountsberg, Waterdown, Greensville, West Flamboro and North Wentworth. We also have copies of Stoney Creek (Vol. 1) and Westover (Village History), microfilm of the Aldershot books, and Minute Books from various Branches. The Tweedsmuir History of

Binbrook Township was published in 1948 and the Sheffield material was put together by Marty Pullin in 2001 – both publications are in our collection. Other miscellaneous items include programs for various branches, list of officers etc. It is an ongoing project to index these volumes and to catalogue the photos they contain.

They are an invaluable source of local history.



Items from
Ira Brock,
Sheffield
and
Greensville
Women's
Institute
collections

Athletics Cont'd- 2.

West Flamboro Curling Club was formed in 1838. This Club was one of the strongest in Ontario. A party of four, who played against Troy, Albany, and New York, and won all their matches, included Dr. Hamilton of Bullock's Corners, in 1861.

The Hockey Team of 1890's played and practised on Clark's Dam at Bullock's Corners, and were a credit to the Community.

In 1899 and 1900 Dan Cotter, the local Inn Keeper, instituted a New Year's Day Road Race from Bullock's Corners to Frelton. Several runners participated but the record did not establish any local Champions. In 1909-10 Quoting created the excitement for the Village and many an enjoyable Saturday afternoon was enjoyed on the grounds where the Rice Family grows grapes at Bullock's Corners.

In 1910 a Tennis Club was formed with two Courts at the Greensville School Grounds. On evenings, Saturdays and holidays, the young people of the Villages of Bullock's Corners and Greensville could be seen wending their different ways to the School. Tennis was a very popular game and many enjoyable hours were spent on the Courts. The girls usually provided refreshments. That enabled the members to play afternoon and evening.



BULLOCK CORNERS SOCCER TEAM OF 1885—"We were never beaten"
Taken on the lawn of W. J. Morden (where Fred Hill lives to-day). Standing left to right—Bill Morden, Ken Wishart, F. D. Morden, Anthony Davidson, Geo. Burrows and Chas. Morden. Sitting—Jack Adams, Chas. Green, J. Griffin, J. R. Morden and Fred Clark.

W.F., p.37



Members of Greensville
Tennis Club of 1912.

From Left to Right—Jean
Kylie, Willie Kylie, Maude
Spears, Cora Tunis, Edna
Spears, Fred Hore, Mary Jack-
son, Stanley Tunis, Sarah
Clark, Ernie Kelly, Jessie Bran-
igan, Gordon Jackson, Cecil
Nicholson and Fred Thornton.

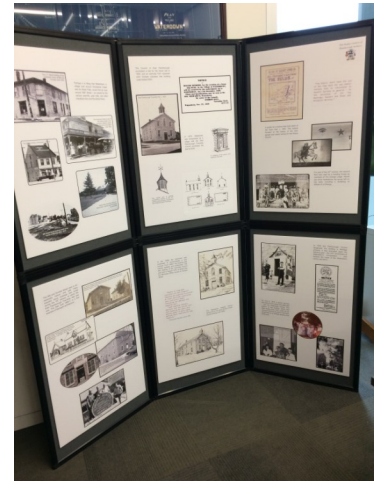
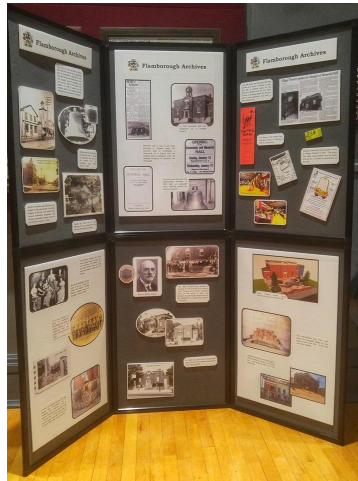
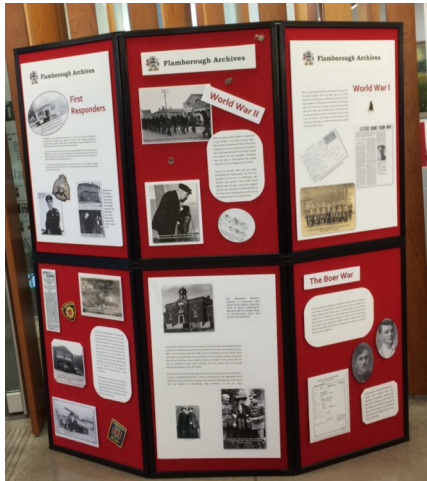
TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Through the tireless efforts of our Archivist, Lyn Lunsted and our grant writer, Jane Colwell, the Society was awarded funding from the New Horizons for Seniors grant. The grant allowed us to purchase a dedicated scanner, a dry-mount press, four sets of display panels, the associated supplies, along with two hundred hours wages for Lisa Jefferies to research and prepare the presentations.

Already the following exhibits have been displayed:

1. *June 8, 2018* - R.E.D. "Remembering Everyone Deployed"
Honouring Military and First Responders of Flamborough
held at the Waterdown Legion
2. *June 21, 2018* - Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee
Heritage Recognition Awards Celebration
Held at Waterdown Memorial Hall
3. *July 12, 2018* - History of 25 Mill Street and surrounding area
Brown Financial Security and Brown Lawyers Open House

Lisa will continue to prepare exhibits which will be offered for display to seniors homes, Service Clubs, schools and others. Volunteers will also offer to speak on the various topics displayed.



Can you beat Albert Einstein?

THE SITUATION

There are 5 houses in five different colors.

In each house lives a person with a different nationality.

These five owners drink a certain type of beverage, smoke a certain brand of cigar and keep a certain pet.

No owners have the same pet, smoke the same brand of cigar or drink the same beverage.

The question is: **Who owns the fish?**

HINTS

- the Brit lives in the red house
- the Swede keeps dogs as pets
- the Dane drinks tea
- the green house is on the left of the white house
- the green house's owner drinks coffee
- the person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds
- the owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill
- the man living in the center house drinks milk
- the Norwegian lives in the first house
- the man who smokes blends lives next to the one who keeps cats
- the man who keeps horses lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill
- the owner who smokes Blue Master drinks beer
- the German smokes Prince
- the Norwegian lives next to the blue house
- the man who smokes blend has a neighbor who drinks water

**Waterdown-East Flamborough
Heritage Society**

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Officers 2018–2019

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Carol Snell

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Treasurer: Lyn Lunsted

Past-President:

Nathan Tidridge

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Bailey Cripps

Danielle Herrnstein

Brenda Jefferies

Mary Beth Kennedy

Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst, Newsletter



NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

This summer is shaping up to be a busy one for our Society and the Archives. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, thanks to a grant from the New Horizons for Seniors program we have been able to purchase the equipment required to produce displays for various events and locations. We will be reaching out to the Seniors Residences in Flamborough who had indicated they would be interested in having a display brought to their locations, and to the churches and service clubs who also supported our grant proposal.

We were able to purchase a small display case for the Archives with HST rebate money so stop by and take a look at some of the material on display.

We are also fortunate to have three new Board members this year and we will be making good use of their talents. We look forward to a great year, and increased outreach and awareness of our Society.



*Chris Rivait
President*



AREA SOCIETY WEBSITES

The **Ancaster Township Historical Society** -

www.ancasterhistory.ca

The **Burlington Historical Society** -

www.burlingtonhistorical.ca

The **Dundas Valley Historical Society** -

www.dundashistory.ca

The **Grimsby Historical Society** -

GrimsbyHistoricalSociety

The **Hamilton Historical Board** -

www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca

The **Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society** -

HeadoftheLakeHistoricalSociety

The **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Hamilton Branch** -

www.uel.com

The **West Lincoln Historical Society** - www.wlhs.info