

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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Upcoming Programs

- Jan 25: Lights Camera Archive!
Feb 22: Aboriginal Farm Workers
Mar 29: History of Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum
Apr 26: History of Hudson's Bay Company

November Public Meeting

British War Brides.

Chelsea Barranger is a 4th year PhD candidate at McMaster University. Her dissertation focuses on the postwar settlement and adaptation of British war brides in Ontario and Quebec.

From 1942 to 1946 some 48,000 war brides immigrated to Canada. Despite this sudden influx of immigration into Canada (which at the time represented the largest movement of people to Canada since the First World War), very little has actually been written about these women or their experiences to date.

She seeks to insert British war brides into a larger discussion of the postwar histories of Canadian immigration and national identity.



November 30, 2018
8:00 pm
St. James United Church
306 Parkside Dr
Waterdown

Free Admission All are Welcome!

WATERDOWN BIA GHOST PUB WALK



Susan Pennie, Lyn Lunsted, Nathan Tidridge, Shanel Scott

The BIA partnered with the Flamborough Heritage Society and tour guides *Nathan Tidridge* and *Lyn Lunsted* led a group of spirit-seekers around the old Waterdown Village and regaled followers in tales of

history and haunted past.

The evening started at the old public library on Mill St. N. (now Brown Lawyers & Brown Financial Security) with soup served up by local restaurant Kamoosh Bistro, alongside samples of West Avenue Cider before moving on to the haunted Mill St. & 5 American House for food and stories.

The last stop was The Royal Coachman where local medium, Shanel Scott, tuned into some of the lurking spirits around the room.

The event sold out VERY quickly, and we're looking forward to doing something similar again next year!

SPOOKTASTIC FOR SURE!

Heritage Paper # 277

[illegible]

Page three was devoted to the terms of the Armistice, as sent out from Washington D.C. There were no editorials, no articles touting the end of the war and what the allied forces had accomplished.

For several weeks after November 11th, the Waterdown Review continued to post letters from 'boys at the front'. Most were dated September or October and talked about the war and the conditions the soldiers were living under. As the weeks and months passed it was evident that the boys were not coming home any time soon.

The Kimmel Park riot is a dark mark on the history of Canada at war. Kimmel Park was at Bodolwyddan on the north coast of Wales and was the final staging point for sailing from Liverpool. After a series of small disturbances a full scale riot broke out in the Canadian section of the camp. For two days (March 4 – 5) the soldiers burned buildings, and looted canteens. They were tired of not enough food, no pay, poor living conditions and having nothing to do but wait. After it was over, five men were dead and 23 were wounded. Repatriation efforts however, were sped up.



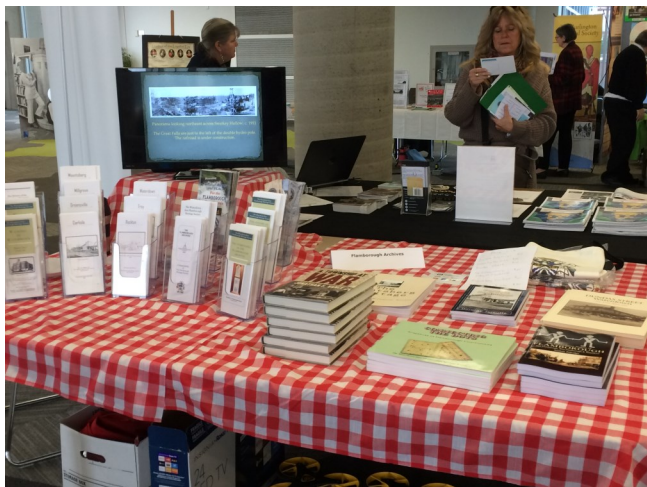
Kimmel Park after the riots

The final bit of history that seems to reinforce the almost laid back attitude of the locals is the issue of a memorial to those who served and died in World War 1. While a movement to create some kind of honour got under way in December 1918, there was no agreement on exactly what to do and the project limped along until 1921. Memorial Hall was finally built, and opened in January 1923.

The building is now a Heritage building and the building itself— not the memorial plaques – is registered in the National Inventory of Canadian Military Memorials.

Community Outreach

Our table and video display at the Genealogy Fair on November 17th, and our two display units at the Legion Remembrance Day event, November 11th.



Articles from the Waterdown Review can be viewed and printed from the Archived Microfilm reels. Such gems as these legal reports:

February 9, 1933

We understand Mr. Jas. Bell, whose dog was poisoned a short time ago, will ask the Council for the return of the \$10 dog tax which he has paid in the past. Mr. Bell claims there was not sufficient police protection and if the Council does not refund the money he will enter suit in the 13th Division Court for \$100,00, the value of the dog. Now watch the hair fly.

Or,



Unusual Sentence (from Sept 29, 1932)

Permission to pay by the sweat of their brow was granted to Kenneth Guenther and Richard Lillycrop, two Waterdown youths by Magistrate Vance this week when the lads appeared before him on a charge of theft. The pair had stolen a number of watermelons from the farm of Eli Buchan, and were fined \$5 and costs, or seven days each. His worship added a rider that the boys might work out their fine on Mr. Buchan's lands at the rate of three days each in lieu of paying the fine. Mr. Buchan agreed to this.

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted,

During the “Great War”, over 600,000 men and women enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) between 1914-1918 as soldiers, airmen, nurses and chaplains. The families left behind could only wait, and experience the love, excitement, apprehension, fear, hope and sorrow that are the emotions triggered by war.



Flora, (Charles) Walker and Douglas McGregor

As in the rest of Canada, many local families had more than one family member involved in some capacity. While it was not unusual to have two children, usually sons, serving overseas, the McGregor family of Waterdown was somewhat unique: four of their seven living children served during W.W. 1. Against all odds, all of them survived and came home.

- Charles Walker McGregor (1883-1949) was assigned to the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, 164th Battalion.
- Elizabeth Muriel McGregor (1888-1987) was a nurse, assigned to the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, Canadian Army Medical Corps.
- Flora McGregor Frid (1889-1987) was also a nurse. Since the Canadian government did not allow married women to serve overseas, she joined the American Red Cross in London. She served at the American Hospital, St. Katherine's Lodge, Regent's Park.
- Douglas Urquhart McGregor (1895-1953) served in the Royal Air Corps, rising to the rank of Captain. He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in leading patrols against hostile formations.

Their father, Dr. John Owen McGregor (1850-1928) was born in Nelson Township and practiced medicine

in the Waterdown area from 1884 to 1927. In 1878 he married Eliza MacKenzie who had come from Scotland as a young child, and they had eight children, seven surviving to adulthood. Two became notable surgeons in the Hamilton area and three became nurses. *“Dr. McGregor was very active in the political life in Waterdown. He was elected Reeve of Waterdown in 1895, served on the Village of Waterdown Council for 16 consecutive years and was Warden of the County of Wentworth for two years beginning in 1897”*

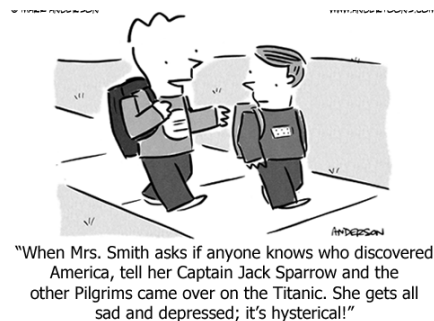
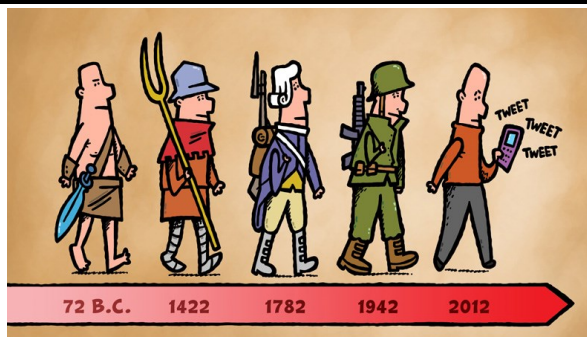
Dr. McGregor purchased the Scotch Church Grant on Main Street North in Waterdown and built his home “The Clunes”, named after the Scottish home his wife was born in. The extensive grounds contained summer cottages for his children and many garden parties were held there. In 1927 Dr. McGregor was struck by a car and forced to end his medical career. He died in April 1928 from complications resulting from this accident.

Mrs. Eliza McGregor “was very active in the Knox Presbyterian Church and in the King's Daughters. She was a pioneer in the organization of the Women's Institute locally and throughout the Province,” and rarely missed a meeting in 36 years. She was also instrumental in the formation of the local Red Cross Chapter starting in 1915 when *“This organization meets every Tuesday afternoon from two to five o'clock to make hospital supplies and garments for our brave Canadian boys at the front”* The day before she died on November 12 1939, she was concerned *“because she realized she would be unable to place on the Waterdown Cenotaph the wreath which was the tribute of the Women's Institute”* (Hamilton Spectator November 1939)

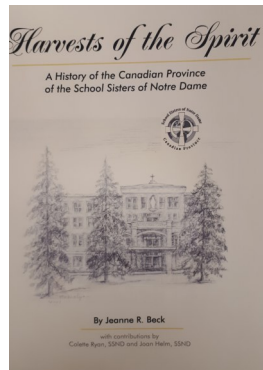


The McGregor Family c. 1914

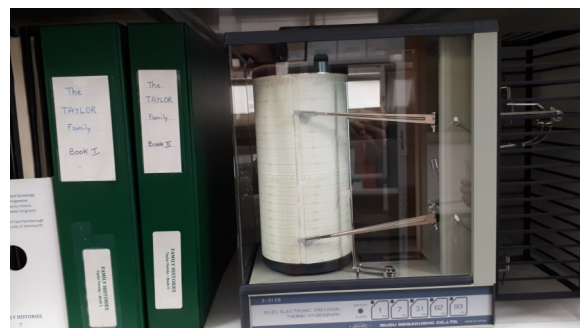
All of the McGregor children went on to become very involved in the communities of Waterdown and Hamilton. We owe them a great debt.



TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES



The Archives are the grateful recipients of a rare copy of a History of The Notre Dame Teaching Sisters. There are only six copies, and Sister Joan Helm has given us one. She has also donated an Electronic Precision Thermo-Hygrograph to measure heat and humidity in the Archives. This is a fabulous acquisition, and Lyn is very excited to have it.



FLAMBOROUGH FUN FACTS

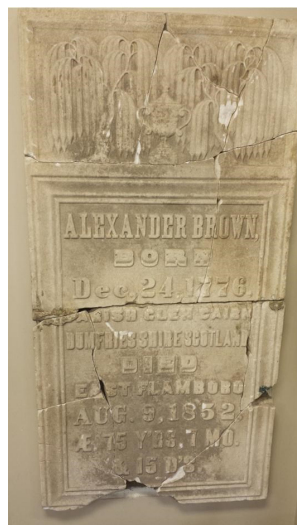
Tombstone story of discovery

The two library monuments were “discovered” on Sunday, 21 May 1978 by Mr. and Mrs. William R Donkin while out for an evening stroll. The couple noticed the headstones on a Nelson Street property that was being prepared for the construction of four new homes. Originally this property had been between the home of John Burkholder, caretaker of Waterdown Union Cemetery. The lettering on the inscriptions was still legible, probably because the stones had been laid face down to form a sidewalk to the outhouse on the Burkholder property. How the stones arrived on the Nelson Street property may never be known. Possibly Mr. Burkholder rescued them when they were replaced with the present monument to the Brown family.

On the following day, the Donkins happened to meet Mrs. Eilene Kennedy on Main Street, Waterdown, and told her about their amazing discovery. Fascinated by this news, Mrs. Kennedy went in to the Flamborough Review Office and asked John Bosveld, the Editor and Publisher, if his two sons could collect the two

old tombstones in their van and take them to the Municipal Offices for safekeeping.

The tombstones stayed at the Municipal offices for several months. During this time, arrangements were made by the Waterdown Centennial Committee and the Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society with the Wentworth Library Board to have them mounted on the “New” library wall beside the elevator so that their preservation could be assured.



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Heritage Society**

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Nathan Tidridge

Board Members

Bailey Cripps

Danielle Herrnstein

Brenda Jefferies

Mary Beth Kennedy

Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst, Newsletter



NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

November has been a busy month for the Society. We attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Waterdown Legion where we had two of our display boards up. Lyn Lunsted and Sue McNally were at the Hamilton Public Library Genealogy Fair on November 17th at the Central Library. It was well attended and will hopefully bring more interest in Flamborough to other parts of Hamilton. Sue McNally will have a table with our books for sale at the Carlisle Vendor's Sale at the Carlisle United Church on Saturday November 24th.

We are still looking for responses for our Book Fair Questionnaire. What did you like and what would you like to see done differently? Please let us know through the online form or email us at society@FlamboroughHistory.com.

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** -

Grimsby Historical Society

The **Hamilton Historical Board** -

www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca

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

Head of the Lake Historical Society

The **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Hamilton Branch** - www.uel.com

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