

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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Upcoming Programs

Nov 30 : British War Brides
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

28th Annual Book Fair

Again this year, the society invited many local authors to come to discuss and sign their books. Jonathan Vance was a big draw as many local people wanted to purchase his 'hot off the press' book *'A Township at War'*. Other vendors sold original drawings and classic comic books. There were many new vendors this year including the Rockton Fair which had their centennial history book for sale. If you missed the event, you missed a great day. This is the major fund raising event of the year for WEFHS so we encouraged everyone to come out and help support the



Society's ongoing work in the community. The Heritage Society table included the two books we recently published as well as older publications and second hand books.

Lunch was available featuring excellent homemade sandwiches and pies. Gluten Free options were available and light refreshments served throughout the day.

October 20, 2018
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Flamborough Heritage Society in the Community

Please join the Society at the following events:

- Sun. Nov 11— Waterdown Legion Remembrance Day Event
- Sat. Nov 17—Genealogy Fair at the Hamilton Central Library 10 – 4



Donna Terry, a long time member of The Flamborough Heritage Society, passed away on October 16, 2018. Donna served as a Director and/or Secretary from 1985 –1992 and remained an avid supporter of the Archives and Heritage Society. We extend our condolences to her husband Robert and their family.

The Way We Were

Heritage Paper # 276

Reading through a copy of the Flamborough Review– then the ‘Waterdown Review and East Flamborough Advertiser’ – from October 12, 1933, it isn’t hard to notice a stark difference in the way we were back then and the way we are now. It becomes very apparent in the things that were advertised, what was considered newsworthy, and in the way that people spoke about each other, mainly in the sense of a lack of tact.

Early articles entitled “Car of Supplies Shipped to West” and “Buffalo Herds Moved Northward” were some that caught my attention as seeming rather mundane by current standards, as well as ones like “Mother Handled Algy In Her Way: This Boy of Eight Lost Interest In His School Work Till He Was Told What Being A Good Sport Meant.” What we would refer to as a slow news day today had full-length, feature articles back then.

Other articles reflected the predominantly agricultural way of life that this area maintained during its earlier years. Lengthy articles about “RAISING THE PIGS RIGHT: How to Get a Fair Profit Out of Swine” demonstrated this.

It was also fascinating to read an article about “Chancellor Adolf Hitler” and his declaration made in a speech in Munich that “Germany can no longer be regarded as a second-rate power but must be recognized as an equal among the great powers of the world.” Though this is more global than local news, nonetheless it’s interesting to see how a small town paper carried articles portraying Hitler as a great statesman.

Another article that caught my attention was one that highlighted the somewhat rudimentary logic used to explain issues back in the day, “Passing Marks in School Depends On Pleasing Teacher: So a Research Director Explains Why More Boys Than Girls Fail in Examinations.” Also common in this edition was women being marketed to in a way that I’d like to think is incredibly outdated today. With columns titled “Woman’s Chatter” featuring blurbs on hosiery length being standardized, how to dress for a

dance, how to get your man to cook (he may just even be better than you!), and ‘Gossip and Otherwise’, as well as “Woman’s World” subtitled “a woman’s place is in the home”, it’s strange to see the blatant sexism that is mocked today so commonplace barely 90 years ago. It wasn’t just men writing down to women, though, whose tactlessness surprised me. Perhaps the most shockingly cruel article was one titled “Expensive – But Worth It” by Marjorie Elliott Wilkins. She writes, and I quote for emphasis, *“Angelique was our ‘wash lady’ for years. Every Monday morning she appeared, just before eight o’clock, smiles wreathing her worn old football of a face. Not that Angelique really was old; the sharp vixen of a mother with whom she lived didn’t look a day older. But Angelique had lost two prominent front teeth, and the continual steam from the wash tub had taken most of the lustre from her black hair, which, despite the fact that it was curled tightly each morning, invariably turned to its shoe-string straightness before four o’clock. There wasn’t much that was cuddlesome or desirable about her sturdy, peasant figure either. The thought of cuddling Angelique reminded one of embracing a plaster manniken (sic).”* The article goes on to talk about how Angelique – who was savvy with money and had saved up quite a fair bit – married a man who was *“too tall and dark and handsome, and a trifle smooth and a bit too young to be interested in Angelique for her own sake.”* He ended up stealing her money and running off, and Ms. Wilkins and others offered to help her out but Angelique declined, wanting no sympathy and instead just to return to work. Wilkins deemed her ‘unbelievably proud’ and spent the remainder of the article in a state of incredulousness over it.

What a lot of the advertisements in the paper did for me was iterate the simplicity with which they lived in the early 1930s. This was during the depression and it was surprising to see so many things advertised that were not essential to everyday life. Common ads were for various medicines such as Buckley’s and Aspirin, but many also read “Hay, Straw, and chicken Feed

FOR SALE", "PURE GUERNSEY MILK, 'The Premium Milk' Delivered at your door every day at the price of ordinary milk by A.M. Shaver." There was also a repeating advertisement for The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, stating "For 30 cents you can telephone about 100 miles by making an "anyone" call (station to station) after 8:30 p.m. See list of rules in front of directory" accompanied by lines such as "When the folks are out for the evening – and time begins to drag – you need not lack for congenial companionship. Just pick up the telephone and friends are at your call, whether they live in the next township or county or half a continent away" or "When a deal is hanging fire and the responsibility's yours – and you're just a little doubtful – and you'd like the benefit of

Dad's advice – just reach for the nearest telephone and give him the facts. He's never far away by telephone."

Also interesting to see were the advertisements for the "Modern and Old Tyme Dance" every Friday evening in Waterdown Memorial Hall. That one just goes to show that, while there are many differences between our lifestyles now and lifestyles back then, not everything has to change, as I remember friends getting excited for the events that took place at Memorial Hall when I was in high school.

by Shauna Deathe
Student Archivist

A Flamborough Farm in 1836

A visitor to a farm on the Brock Road described his visit in a letter as follows:

"I helped my brother harvest eighteen acres of wheat, which was done by three cradlers and three binders in four days. Much wheat was lost by the binders in their attempt to keep up with the cradlers, but in spite of this, they harvested twenty bushels per acre, worth one dollar a bushel. The farm hand were paid four shillings and six pence, or one dollar, a day and their keep. They started work at six o'clock, had a breakfast of porridge and milk at eight, a dinner of pork and potatoes at one, a supper of pork and potatoes at six and stopped working at nine o'clock. It is the custom to give each man a bottle of whiskey to mix with his pail of drinking water. When we carted in the wheat, we found it difficult to drive ground, a steam of oxen could easily haul a load the twelve miles in six hours, but without snow, it takes longer. A breakdown on the road is to be dreaded because there is no nearby blacksmith.

"My brother has difficulty in raising lambs and calves because of the wolves, but some animals are raised. Whenever a farmer kills an ox, a sheep, or a deer, it is always divided with the neighbours."



The grain cradle caught the grain cut by its blades, making it an improvement over the sickle and scythe, which left the grain lying on the ground.

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted,

Books

In this digital age, it would seem logical to assume that real books are on the way out. People, especially the younger generation are reading their phones or tablets and don't seem inclined to pick up a book or a newspaper. But is this really true?

Although it is hard to get specific numbers, and the results seem to vary from country to country, there is a general consensus that the sale of print books is on the increase. A large percentage of that increase is for juvenile books. Are parents or grandparents buying more books for their children? Are teenagers buying books? Are Book Clubs having an effect?



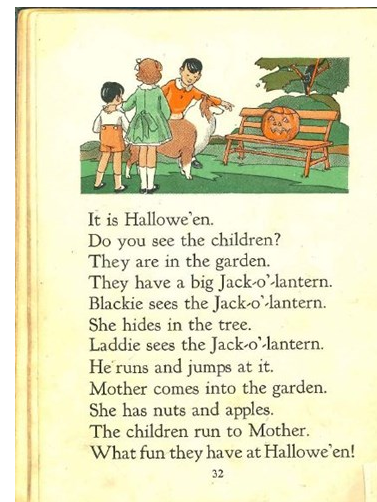
In the 1800's and 1900's, books were part of everyday life. Wealthier families may even have had libraries while poorer families may have only had a bible and/or school books but reading – and reading together – was important.

Diaries, letters and newspaper articles held in the Flamborough Archives contain many references to Literary Societies, Debating Clubs, and evenings at home where people discussed the latest articles in magazines and newspapers. The local Mechanic's Institute started the first library in Waterdown, in 1843 and by 1854 there were enough books to warrant electing one of their officers to the position of librarian. The majority of the books were educational in nature as the aim was to 'improve the mind and spread knowledge' but as the years passed, the library grew to encompass poetry and fictional novels.

Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy, Mark Twain, Louisa May Alcott, Jules Verne, Charles Dickens – today these are authors of the classics, books we have all read in school

or on our own. The stories may seem dated but people still read them, because they fire our imaginations. In days gone by, what flights of fancy might they have inspired in local farm children?

Some of the books in our collection describe what it was like to live in the Canada of the 1800's. '*Roughing it in the Bush*' by Susannah Moodie or '*The Making of a Man*' and '*The Trail of Love*', both by W.D. Flatt, are biographical. They describe why they came to Canada, what it was like to get here, and the difficulties and joys of living here. They probably were not big sellers in Canada – after all, they simply described the life many other people were already living. But they weren't written for people in North America – they were for the European market, for people who would never experience that life and wanted to know about it. Regardless of who read the books, they were reading them.



From '*Mary, John and Peter*'. The Ontario Readers Primer
The Minister of Education for Ontario. Toronto, 1934

We also have in our collection some early school textbooks. Looking through them, they seem to be very advanced for the age group they were aimed at - was the education system better? Did it encourage reading for pleasure?

Books are part of our lives – large or small. Every child should have the experience of owning their own books, to hold and read, over and over. A new book smells wonderful. Reading a book together encourages a family to be together. Hopefully we never lose that experience.

TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES

A donation from Faye and Ken Hanes of Sodom Rd. Dundas was happily received this last month at the Archives.

A Panorama Photo from the Wilfred Johnson Studio lists the Members of the County Council and Council Officials, 1924 (Wentworth)



FLAMBOROUGH FUN FACTS



Kerry Keane is a Flamborough native who has starred in movies and on TV for over 30 years. But this humble editor remembers her mom, **Grace** as a lovely Sunday School teacher at St. James United Church in Waterdown some time in the 60's and 70's. John and Grace Keane were early members of the Heritage Society and tireless workers on the board. Anyone who would like to share Church directories are encouraged to visit the Archives.

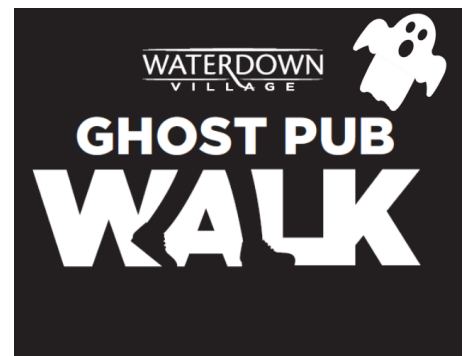


MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

Please contact the Society regarding quick and easy ways to renew your membership. (society@FlamboroughHistory.com) If you have already renewed, ignore this message. If you have not—THIS MEANS YOU!!! Anyone still outstanding with their fees will have a Waterdown BIA Ghost visit them in the dark of night.

Wahahaha....

Check out www.waterdownbia.ca for more outstanding events.



**The Waterdown-East Flamborough
Heritage Society**

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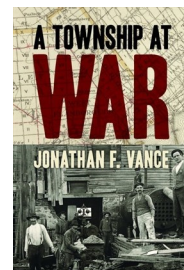
NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

We had a pretty successful book fair this year, I think a lot of it might have to do with Jonathan Vance's attendance. He did really drum up some excitement over his book on the Facebook group *Waterdown Memories*.

We had over 20 local authors and book sellers, however, attendance keeps going down year after year. The Board of Directors will have to review to see if there is anything we can change or update to see if the book fair is still relevant to our community. Over the years we've tried to change it to better reflect what people might be out looking for but that has not helped with increasing attendance. If you have any thoughts on the future of the book fair we would like to know.

Chris Rivait
President

Waterdown author Jonathan Vance's new book *A Township At War*, details the experiences of the residents of East Flamborough during the First World War. The book will be released in October. - WLU Press



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](http://GrimsbyHistoricalSociety)

The **Hamilton Historical Board** -

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

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