

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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Upcoming

The nominating committee is looking for people for our Board of Directors for 2020-2021.

The positions of Treasurer and Newsletter Editor are open. Please contact us if you are interested—or know of someone who is.

Phone number and email are on the back page of this newsletter.

MARCH PUBLIC MEETING

Restoring the former Library / East Flamborough Township Hall



Built in 1857, the Flamborough Township Hall was at the centre of community administration. It has gone through numerous municipal uses including most recently as the Waterdown Public Library (1979-2015). In late 2016 the City of Hamilton sold the property to three local business owners (and brothers) Nicholas, Nathan and Andrew Brown. They renovated the heritage-designated building with a focus on the building's history in the community and with a desire to restore its position as a centre of administration and knowledge. The project has earned city-wide recognition.

Nathan Brown, partner at Brown Financial Security Inc. will present photos and stories about the renovation project.

Friday, March 27, 2020

8:00 pm

St. James United Church

306 Parkside Dr

Waterdown

Free for Members. \$ 5.00 for non-members.

All are Welcome!



OUR BOOK LAUNCH

We will be launching our new childrens book at the Waterdown Public Library in the program room on

Wednesday March 18 at 4:00 pm.

We will have several artifacts for a 'show and tell' and children will be able to have their photo taken 'green screen' against photos used in the book. It will look like they are in the photo !



The Harper Family

HERITAGE PAPER #288

The origins of many Flamborough Pioneer Families might seem quite similar, immigrating to Canada and establishing new lives on a plot of densely grown land. The Harper Family, however, does not quite fall into this box. The Harpers, with two young children at the time, came over to Upper Canada as participants in the Petworth Emigration Scheme. This scheme was sponsored by the Earl of Egremont who put forward £3500 to send working-class families from the South of England to Upper Canada over the course of five years. James Harper and his wife, Sarah Redman, made their journey in 1832, during the first year of the program.

The young family settled on 100 acres of land located on the South half of Lot 13, Concession 8 in East Flamborough which was purchased from the Canada Company. The land was situated where the 8th Concession East meets Highway 6 and the community that arose around this area became known as Harper's Corners. Much like other pioneer families, the Harper's first home was a log cabin which was the home until the family could afford to build a brick farmhouse.



Golden Wedding Anniversary of John Laking and Lucy Harper, Charles Harper and Elizabeth Worthington - 7 April 1908

After their homestead was built, they used the old cabin as an ice house. Six children were born into the Harper family, five boys and one girl. The original Harper farm was left to Charles Harper, the youngest of all the children, but James Harper resided on the farm until his death in 1877. Interestingly enough, the Harper Family seemed to defy pioneer tradition by passing their farm onto one of the youngest sons, rather than the eldest.



Golden Wedding Anniversary John Laking and Lucy Harper, their children and grandchildren. 7 April 1908

George Harper, the eldest of the Harper family, bought the burned down Ashbourne Mill with the intention of constructing a hydro-electric generating station. He built the station at the base of Webster's Falls in 1899. This was the second hydro station in all of Ontario and it supplied electricity to the town of Dundas for two years. In 1901, the station was burned down in a fire and rather than re-building, George sold it to the Cataract Power Corporation in May 1901. Outside of his hydro endeavour, George bought 50 acres at "range 7, lot 13" which happened to have both a church and a school on the property. Like many churches at the time, a pastor wasn't a regular fixture in the church and instead it operated as a Methodist Church with services held every 4-6 weeks. George wanted to sell the property but donated the church prior to this, to make sure that there was a church for the residents of the area.

The original Harper land was right on the boundary of East and West Flamborough and the area around it marked an important stop on the route from Hamilton to Guelph. Because of this, many different businesses arose including two general stores, a hotel, a harness shop and eventually a gas station. Howard Livingston (father in law of John Charles Harper) operated many of these businesses. Perhaps the most interesting of his businesses was that he made baseball bats for the New York baseball team, transporting them down by horse and buggy. A post office opened at Harper's Corners in 1900 which was run by Mike Carson. He ran the post office until 1928, along with a general store, the gas station and the harness shop.



70th Anniversary of the Harper and Livingston's Arrival in Canada - 1902

Charles Harper worked the family land for many years before passing it along to his son John Charles, who in turn left it to his youngest son Russell. Russell operated the farm until 1993 when he sold it to be developed into a subdivision. Apart from a fire in 1961 where the attached garage was destroyed, the original Harper property remained until the modern building project was undertaken.

Russell's brother Kenneth (Ken) Harper might be the best known of all the Harper Family as he served in local politics for many years. In 1952, Ken was inaugurated into the East Flamborough Council where

he served until 1958 when he was elected as deputy Reeve. In 1967, he served as Wentworth County Warden. He held the position of the first Mayor of Flamborough Township in 1973 with the creation of the new township. Ken had a prestigious career, gaining much respect from the community for his years of service.



In May 1979 the Harper building, opposite Memorial Hall, was dedicated in his honour. One might not know but prior to his career in local politics, Ken owned 165 acres on 8th Concession where he owned and operated a dairy and poultry farm. At the peak, this farm housed 5000 chickens and 500 turkeys.



Ken is just one of many Harper's who are still in the area, the perfect example of how the Harper name lives on in the Flamborough region.

Rosemary Giles
Student Archivist

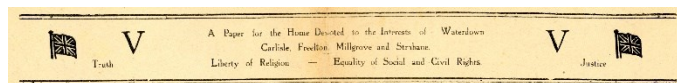
THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

Newspapers are a treasure trove. In these days of online everything, people are missing the fun of leafing through the pages of an old newspaper to discover life as it was. Definitely a slower, gentler time, an old newspaper reveals personal anecdotes, ads for products no longer around, and a peek into what was important in the world on a specific date.

The Flamborough Archives has microfilm of the Waterdown (later the Flamborough) Review from 1918 to 1988, and 2013 to the present. However we are also very lucky to have full copies of random issues.

Let's take a look at The Waterdown Review of Thursday, October 28, 1943. The first thing one notices is the description of the paper, below the title.



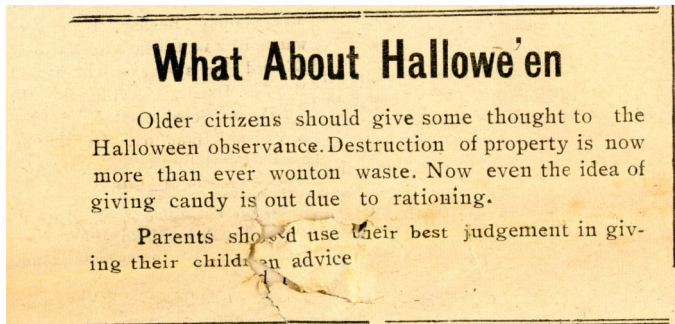
It was 'A paper for the Home Devoted to the Interests of Waterdown, Carlisle, Freelon, Milgrove and Strabane. Truth - Liberty of Religion – Equality of Social and Civil Rights - Justice.' Under that is an ad for the 5th Victory Loan and how much Flamborough was hoping to raise.

Obviously this was during the war years. So what would we expect the rest of the paper to contain – most of it war related? Or local news to try and ease the constant worry about loved ones?

The front page contains an article regarding a lost wallet. Mr. Depass lost his wallet containing \$35, gas coupons and other valuable licenses. He was about to go on a trip, so, thinking he had lost it while working in the field, he ploughed the six acres but didn't find it. Returning from his trip he was convinced that his wallet was there so out he went to the field again – this time the wallet turned up.

There is a long article about the wedding of Alice Buchan and George Harris, complete with descriptions of her gown (ivory satin), veil (¾ length), pearls (gift from the groom and a brooch worn by her mother on her wedding day) and bouquet (cream

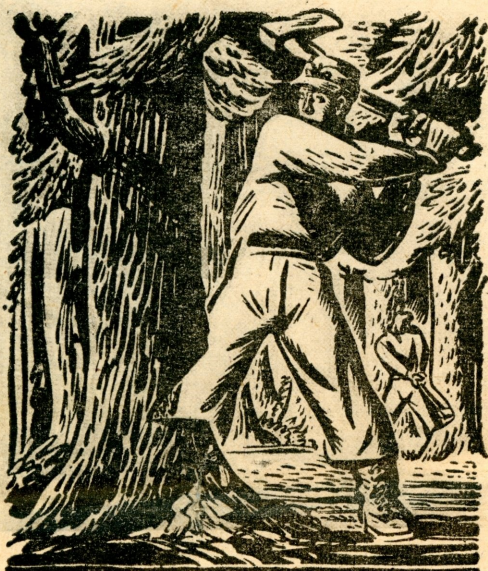
roses and white chrysanthemums). The three bridesmaids and maid of honour wore pale green chiffon gowns. The dresses of the mothers were described, as was the reception at the home of the brides parents where the grandmother of the bride poured tea.



Along with a request for parents to talk to their children about Halloween, there was also a message aimed at the boys of the village.

The second page contained a message from Reeve Wm. Gunby regarding Halloween: 'Remember the Boys of to-day will be the Men of to-morrow. Will you help us to take care of our Village by not Destroying or Damaging any Property or causing any needless expense.' Some things never change.

You don't have to tell us there's a war on, that our boys must have the equipment We KNOW...Haven't we, here at Dofasco,been sweating for four years, turning out Canada's only supply of armour plate for all we're worth:...Sure, we're buying bonds because it's the patriotic thing to do. But we buy them for selfish reasons, too. Talk about Social Security: What can beat having bonds handy when war production stops? We know it's going to take time to get plants changed over to peace-time work, and bonds will be our pay cheques if a lay-off is necessary. Who says Dofasco men don't know a good thing when they see it:



FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS

**If Your Farm Work has Slacked
for the Winter, You Are Needed
Elsewhere in Essential Employment**

Highly essential work—very important in Canada's war effort and for the welfare of the Nation—is threatened with shortages of workers. One of the few sources of men available for other high priority jobs is those men on the farm who will not be needed at home during the Fall and Winter. Heavy needs must be met in many lines—producing fuel wood and other necessary forest products; in base metal mines, in food processing, in railway track maintenance. If you live on a farm and are not needed at home during the Fall and Winter, you are urged to answer this national appeal.

Much of the rest of the 6 page paper is devoted to full page ads from Dominion Foundry & Steel, the National War Finance Committee and the Department of Labour, imploring people to buy Victory Bonds.

Knox Presbyterian Church celebrated its 113 Anniversary and there is a large photo of the church.

The Honour Roll at Millgrove United Church was unveiled listing the names of 40 men and women who 'have offered their lives in defence of Canada'.

The Royal Humane Society Medal was awarded to Mrs. Bennetti for attempting to rescue little girls from drowning.

Personal ads also related to the war effort—a dance and card party to raise funds to send parcels overseas, a Masquerade and Frolic at Memorial Hall for C.D.C. , and a surprising notice from Canada Coach Lines imploring 'shoppers and non-essential travelers to travel between 9 am and 4 pm, and avoid weekends. This is one way you can help the war effort.'

A little bit of human interest, a lot of war related content.



Hand written in the program for the Official Opening of The Addition to Waterdown Public School (Mary Hopkins), January 13, 1954:

An educated person is:

One who can entertain a new idea

One who can entertain another person

One who can entertain himself

FIRST NATIONS HISTORY

The First Nations have been in the news quite a bit in recent times. One of the issues this reader has a hard time getting her head around is the difference between "Elected Band Councils" and "Hereditary Chiefs". It is our hope that the following clears things up a bit:

Elected chiefs

Elected chiefs were created out of the Indian Act of 1876 by colonialists who came to North America, seized Indigenous Land and attempted to put their own system into place.

The act created the elected chief and council system. These representatives are subject to elections held every two years.

"It's incredibly simple," says Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs when asked about the differences. "Band councils have authorities, powers and jurisdiction on the reserve land base itself. And where the border of the reserve ends, so ends their power and jurisdiction."

Professor Sheryl Lightfoot, the Canada Research Chair in Global Indigenous Rights and Politics and an associate professor, First Nations and Indigenous Studies and Political Science at UBC, echoed Phillip's comments, saying the confusion between the two often comes from a lack of knowledge.

"People don't know much about the Indian Act, that's the core problem," she says, adding the Act isn't well taught in the Canadian education system.

Hereditary chiefs

Hereditary chiefs are a title passed down through families. They hold a position of influence in a community where the title has been handed down between generations.

Who it's passed down to can vary between nations, depending on their history. Some follow a patriarchal system while others follow a matriarchal one.

Adding a layer to that, some hereditary leaders run for an elected office meaning they represent both sides.

The hereditary role is seen as focusing on protecting the territory, and doesn't just include economic factors.

"Hereditary leaders have responsibilities. When we talk about traditional leadership, it's much heavier on responsibilities than it is on authority," says Lightfoot.

"Hereditary leadership goes back to time immemorial, and it is intrinsically tied to a territory and the land."

Lightfoot says there's a tendency to view hereditary leadership roles through asking what powers they have. Instead, she says their role should be viewed through a more holistic lens.

Roles can lead to differences

Not every Indigenous community has a hereditary chief or chiefs, but those that do can see divisions of opinion between the two forms of leadership.

"They can get along really well, or they can fight like the Hatfields and McCoys," says Bob Joseph, a hereditary chief of the Kwakwaka'wakw group of nations.

Joseph says he views his role as largely a spiritual one, but with a focus on helping those in the community.

"My dad is a hereditary chief and our responsibility is to the people. Everything we have to do is for the people," he said.

The issue of hereditary rights versus elected band councils is particularly contentious when it comes to the Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

The group was part of *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia*, which is seen as a ground-breaking case in Canadian law and Indigenous rights that upholds Indigenous peoples' claims to lands that weren't ceded by treaty. Much of B.C. is unceded territory, with a slate of unresolved land claims and debates.

What comes next is anyone's guess, but in a perfect world, experts say the two sides work as a unified force in Indigenous communities.

"In an ideal world, the elected council would consult with the hereditary council before making any decisions as part of their own community consultations. That's the best case scenario," says Lightfoot.

Source : CTV News Vancouver

By Kim Hirst

TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES



A list of "Archival "Treasures" must include the fantastic publications that have been written and offered throughout our history. This excerpt is from our book

CONNECTING THE DOTS—SNAPSHOTS OF FLAMBOROUGH COMMUNITIES.

PETERS CORNERS

Peters Corners was perhaps the smallest community in rural Beverly and as a village has since disappeared from the map. It was named for John Peters who owned and operated a general store there during the 1860s and 1870s. After his children moved away from the area the village ceased to exist. Today the name lives on as a busy intersection of the same name at the intersection of Highways 5, 8 and 52. Several restaurants and service stations have occupied the area over the years.

Near this corner, on Lot 33 in the Third Concession a farm was bought around 1800 from a soldier's wife by Wm. Mann for a sum of \$15. He neglected to get the deed from her so she sold it again, this time for a bottle of brandy. Mr. Mann lost the land and the fifteen dollars.

(1952. from "Local History & Archives, Hamilton Public Library, Bruce Murdock Collection)



(from Google Maps)

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Brenda Jefferies

Mary Beth Kennedy

Meghan Martin

Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst, Newsletter

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

Our children's book is hot off the presses and we are excited to get it out to the community! As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, we have our Book Launch on Wednesday March 18th at 4:00 PM at the Waterdown Library. It will be a great event to help introduce youngsters to the rich history of Flamborough. Don't miss this wonderful hands-on history experience for every member of the family!

Personally, I am excited because the Archives volunteers and Library staff are working together for this event and we will hopefully see more joint events in the future. I would love to see more collaborations with the library, and other community groups and business. With limited resources, we are always looking for better ways to connect with the community and our book launch is a great start.

Please come out and support us with this event.

The book is available for purchase at the Archives for \$20.

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](http://GrimsbyHistoricalSociety).

The **Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society**-

www.hamiltonheritage.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