

# HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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**WEFHS Board 2020-2021**

The position of Treasurer remains open. Please contact us if you are interested—or know of someone who is.

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## Schools and Places of Worship Inventory

Volunteer archivist Lyn Lunsted is gathering information on schools and places of worship in Flamborough to assist with the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee update of the Hamilton Built Heritage Inventory.

The inventory is based on more than 30 years of data on properties identified as having cultural heritage value or interest, and contains more than 6,000 addresses across the city. By updating the current inventory, the city will be able to determine if a property has cultural heritage value that should be recognized by adding it to the Municipal Heritage Register, or for potential designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The existing Places of Worship Inventory for the Flamborough section was compiled in 2007, under the direction of former volunteer archivist Sylvia Wray. The report can be viewed on the [City of Hamilton website](#).

To find out more about the inventory or to

provide information about a property that is, or was a former school or church site, contact the archives at [archives@flamboroughhistory.com](mailto:archives@flamboroughhistory.com) or call Lyn Lunsted at 905-540-5161.

**Strabane United Church**

**Address:** 1565 Brock Rd  
**Community:** Flamborough  
**Heritage Status:** Designated  
**Planning Area:** Rural  
**Other Names:** Naim Presbyterian Church; Strabane Presbyterian Church



**Previous Inventory Research:**

**Current Affiliations:** United  
**Historical Affiliations:** Presbyterian

**Construction Date:** 1877

**Architect:**

**Builder:**

**Construction Material:** stone

**Architectural Style / Influence:** Gothic Revival

**Notable Building Features:** Neo-gothic windows, Celtic influenced turrets at front entry, curvilinear pews

**Associated Features:** cemetery

**History:**

Presbyterians in Naim worshipped in a local school house as early as 1841. In 1844 land was donated next to the school, and planning commenced on building a church. Finished in 1845, the small frame church was named Naim. It would be enlarged in 1867, before being declared too small in the mid 1870s. A committee was created, chaired by Thomas Bain, a future Speaker of the House of Commons, and construction was completed in 1877.

The new church was dedicated as Strabane Presbyterian Church by the Reverend R.J. Laidlaw of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church of Hamilton on October 12, 1879. In 1924 the church united with the Methodist church and the name was changed to Strabane United Church.

*This draft form details some of the information required to update the current listings for properties in the city's inventory.*

## Bennett/Beulah School, Lynden

Heritage Paper # 294

Beulah School was originally opened as Bennett School in the 1840s on the farm property of John Bennett. The 1875 Wentworth County Atlas shows the school building on lot 21 at Highway 99.

The log structure served students living in Ancaster and Beverly townships. The original schoolhouse was 20 ft. x 21 ft., and the facilities are described as being “very poor,” with children attending classes seated on wooden benches arranged around the perimeter of the room. There was a small partition at the entrance for a cloakroom and a wood storage bin. Two outhouses were located at the back of the property, which measured less than half an acre. A history of the school written by John Pell notes that Mr. Bennett himself served as the school’s first teacher.

Around 1880, the Lynden area underwent a period of building growth, and a brick schoolhouse was constructed to replace the outdated log structure. The site of the new building, which was renamed Beulah School, was further west than that of the original structure,

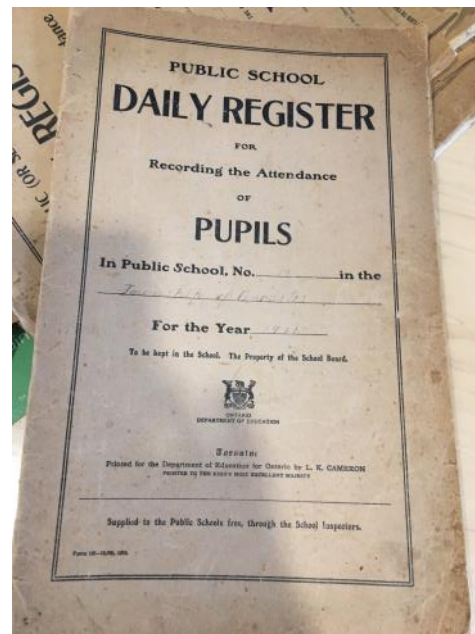
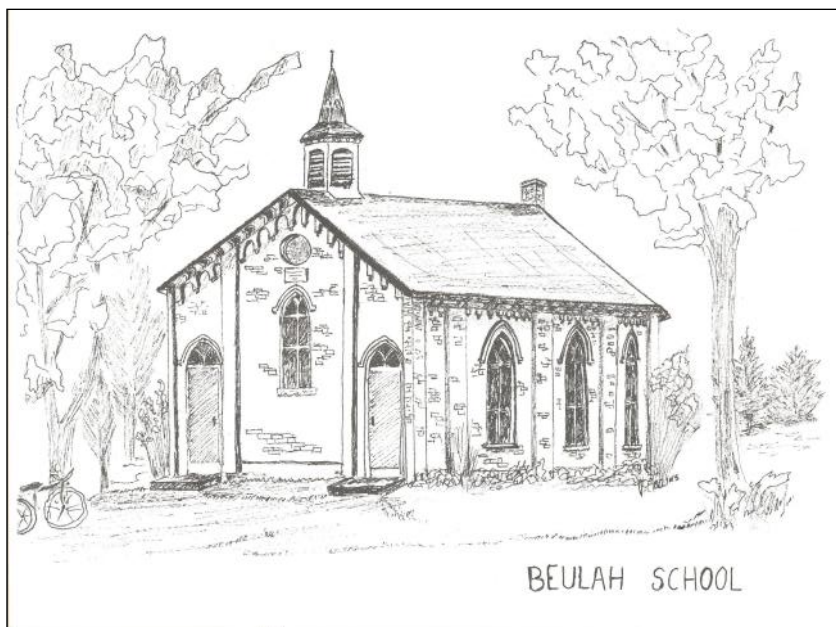
near the intersection at Governors Road and Field Rd./Kitchen Sideroad in Ancaster Township. The new school measured 30 ft. x 40 ft. and featured Florentine design elements similar to those used in the nearby Lynden Church, including three tall Gothic windows on each side, a gable-shaped roof and a decorated cupola that housed a bell.

A note in the school trustees’ minutes from 1881 mentions that the former school building was sold to John Bennett for \$25.

The origin of the name is not clear. Mr. Pell notes that in the late 19th century, members of The Patrons of Industry farmers’ organization named their local club “Beulah” and since they met in the school, the name was transferred to the school itself. Another theory is that the name originated from the Beulah Debating Club, which also held its events at the school.

The first teacher at the new school was Mr. Clyde Pepper, who had 50 pupils in attendance.

The attendance ledger for Beulah School from 1911 (shared by former Orkney resident John



At left, a sketch of the Beulah School that was featured in a 1977 calendar issued by the Beverly Heritage Society. At right, the cover of the attendance ledger for Beulah School for the year 1911.



At left, the plaque on the front of the former Beulah School, which shows the Union School served SS#13 (Ancaster) and SS#2 (Beverly). Below right, the school, now used as a private residence, is shown in a photo taken July, 1972.

Groen) shows that it was a Union School, split into sections for Ancaster (SS#13) and Beverly (SS#2). to determine how much each school section would be charged in the budget. For that school year, 12 students from Ancaster and 14 students from Beverly were on the roster. The students' surnames are the same as that of many families who continue to live in the west Flamborough area today: Hunt, Dymont, Boyd, Bristol, and Johnston.



The ledger also includes work contracts, such as the one that shows Gladys Robb of Troy was paid a sum \$625 to serve as the new schoolteacher for the 1919-1920 school term. Miss Robb was the longest-serving teacher at the school, from 1919- 1937. When she resigned, there were 41 students in attendance at the school. The official closing date of the school is not clear. The Beverly Historical Society reports that children attended the Beulah School until 1955, when a system of amalgamated schools was implemented and the school was converted to a private residence.

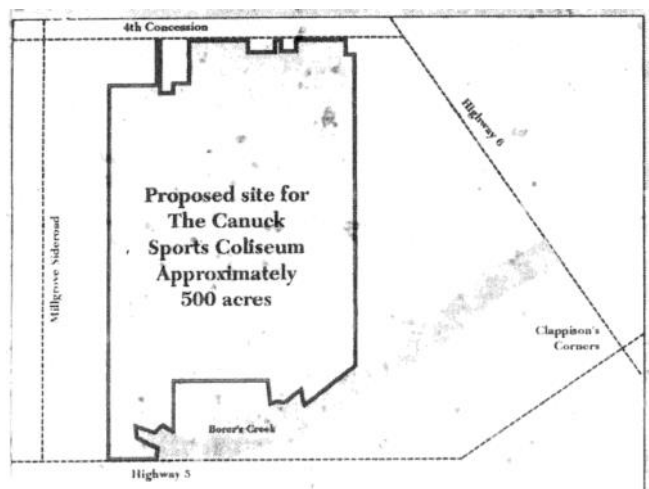
According to Mr. Pell, the Beulah School remained open until 1962. In 1964, the school board sold the property to Laverne Betzner for \$100.

Today, the former Beulah School building continues to serve as a private residence.

*Files from Flamborough Archives, HWDSB Education Archives, John Groen.*

## WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN—THE SPIDER SPEEDWAY

For a brief moment in the spring of 1993, big plans were in the works for Clappison's Corners: a proposed multi-million-dollar project dubbed "The Spider" – a speedway and sports complex that would accommodate up to 300,000 spectators. For several weeks, The Flam-borough Review featured regular updates on Gord Richardson's vision for the northwest corner of the intersection at Highways 5 and 6.



### **May 5, 1993: Speedway sports centre proposed for Clappison's, by Arend Kersten**

Burlington native Gord Richardson, president of Canuck 750, hosted a news conference to unveil plans for a sports complex on 500 acres of land located north of Borer's Creek to the 4<sup>th</sup> Concession West between Hwy. 6 and Millgrove Side Road. The plan for the \$125-million complex included a "super speedway" with room to hold 300,000 spectators. Dubbed "The Spider," the 3.7 km track would be configured to accommodate NASCAR, Indy, and Formula 1 racing. The site would host major entertainment events, such as Hamilton's Festival of Friends and Earthsong, and corporate conventions and conferences.

Richardson also planned "to construct an 8-storey corporate headquarters and a museum featuring racing and spiders." The mega-project was to receive funding from "offshore sources," according to Richardson, who indicated co-operation with Bell Canada to establish a state-of-the-art telecommunications facility and with Mohawk College and major automobile manufacturers to develop an educational centre for automotive and

media students.

Peter Kiewit Sons Co. Ltd., one of the largest construction and engineering organizations in North America, was named a "partnering group" associated with the project. Construction of The Spider was to take two years and create 1,350 construction-related jobs and 308 facility operations jobs.

"An enthusiastic Richardson – noting that one half of the population in North America lives within a day's driving of Clappison's Corners – confidently predicted that The Spider will attract 2.8 million spectators annually, with 50 per cent originating from outside Ontario. In addition, the facilities will be used by 'tens of thousands of exhibitors, participants and performers.'"

Richardson assured the project would have a "community focus and would address environmental concerns" with features such as grass parking and a 50-foot earth berm to reduce noise. The project would include a community centre and swimming pool – at no cost to taxpayers.

Canuck 750 vowed to work with municipal, regional and provincial government to accelerate the zoning and approval process and begin construction in September 1993.

### **May 12, 1993; 'Spider' passes first hurdle - Council endorses mega-project, by Arend Kersten**

Canuck 750 president Gordon Richardson presented the plan for The Spider at the May 3 Flam-borough Council meeting, and received unanimous "in principle" support for the project.

Council members expressed concerns about noise and traffic, but Richardson assured them that "a 50-foot high berm around the perimeter of the 2.5-mile super speedway will create a 'bathtub' configuration resulting in most of the noise going straight up." He indicated the project would accelerate the planned upgrades for Highways 5 and 6, and stressed that the speedway would not feature lighting, so all major events on the facility's 170-acre field would take place during the day. Spectators would be encouraged to tour the amenities on site following events to alleviate traffic flow when leaving the speedway.

In response to a question from Rockton/Peter's Corners councillor John Veltkamp, Richardson said he expected The Spider to host two racing events annually. "But before sitting down, Veltkamp couldn't resist saying, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!"

Freelton/Carlisle councillor Stan Howe highlighted that

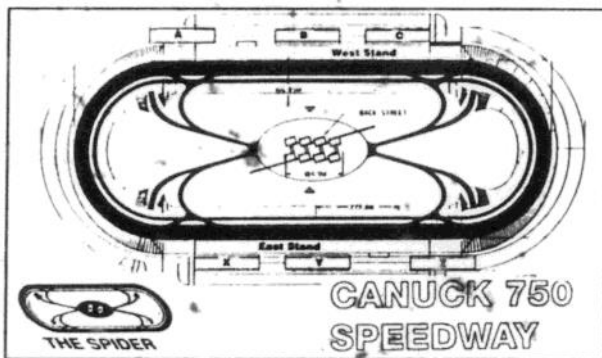
“studies undertaken to provide a blueprint for the future of Flamborough would need to be done all over again,” while Valens councillor Dave Braden expressed “concerns that must be addressed by means of impact studies.”

Due to his position as a teacher at Mohawk College, with which Richardson was to negotiate a partnership, Mayor Don Granger declared a conflict of interest.

“The ‘in principle’ support is ‘subject to final consideration of land use proposals, all necessary municipal, regional and provincial approvals, and total financing to be the responsibility of Canuck 750 representatives (Richardson).”

**May 19, 1993: Questions emerge about The Spider, by Arend Kersten**

“It appears as if some members of Flamborough



Dubbed "The Spider", the unique configuration of the Canuck 750 Speedway allows the versatility of Indy and NASCAR oval racing as well as Formula 1 events.

Council are starting to have ‘second thoughts’ about the unanimous in-principal approval Council gave to The Spider, the \$125-million super-speedway and sports complex proposed for the north west corner of Clappison’s Corners.”

At the May 10 Flamborough Council meeting Dave Braden (Valens) and Mark Shurvin (Greenville) cited concerns, including sending the wrong message to residents who needed to be heard and confirming that the proponent had formally approached the appropriate levels of government. Deputy Mayor Jack Southall defended the plan, which he believed was being considered “at the cabinet level.” Southall also noted that “some high-profile people are trying to mount a counter-campaign” against The Spider.

**May 26, 1993: Spider ‘fast-track’ approval challenged, by Arend Kersten**

A crowd of 300 people attended a May 20 public information session on The Spider proposal, where town representatives assured them the “super speedway and sports complex at Clappison’s Corners will not enjoy preferential treatment in the approvals pro-

cess,” even though project head Gord Richards of Canuck 750 wanted to begin construction on the \$125-million project by September.

Area residents at the meeting expressed concerns about noise and traffic, the impact on local infrastructure and roads, the size of the complex, the secrecy surrounding the land acquisition process and financing, environmental issues, the impact on taking farmland out of production and property values, the financial viability of the project and a deterioration of the “quality of life.”

Peter’s Corners businessman Bill Hume highlighted positive potential impacts of the project at the meeting, including local highway upgrading and an increase in local employment and tax base.

“It was generally agreed at the press table that judging from the level of the applause, the crowd was split about 50/50” on the proposal.

**June 2, 1993: Spider proposal continues to generate controversy**

In a presentation to the Flamborough Planning and Development committee, 4<sup>th</sup> Concession West landowner Dr. Andrew Murton asked for The Spider proposal to be slowed down. A petition against the speedway had collected 700 names. Murton cited social and environmental impacts as well as planning issues and processes that needed to be addressed.

Murton, accompanied by 50 supporters, criticized Flamborough council for holding in camera meetings with Canuck 750 president Gord Richardson, and challenged Richardson’s assertions that the land for the site was “idle farmland.” He also argued that the speedway plan was not in keeping with the Region’s Vision 2020 report and remarked that there had been many “mistruths and hyperbole” associated with the project.

Committee members indicated that the Town had yet to receive an “official” application from Richardson for The Spider. Citing the provincial government’s process for expediting development proposals deemed beneficial for the Ontario economy, Deputy Mayor Jack Southall assured that a “full public process” would be undertaken once the application was received. He also noted that council’s “in-principal support” was conditional on final consideration of land use proposals and all necessary approvals.

“The Review has learned that Richardson presented a formal application (with applicable fees) for a ‘rezoning amendment’ to the Planning Department last Friday (May 28).”

The Spider was never built.

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

**Tweedsmuir Histories – Millgrove**

In 1933 the Provincial Convenor of the Women’s Institute Miss E. Applebe urged branches to collect and save the history of farms, buildings and places of interest and many branches started scrapbooks to carry out this request. During Lord Tweedsmuir’s term as Governor-General of Canada, Lady Tweedsmuir who was a devoted Institute member in England, took a great interest in the Women’s Institute of Canada. She encouraged this initiative, remarking that Canada was still a young country and in many places the tales and tribulations of early settlers were still first hand stories, being told to younger generations.

Documenting local history was seen as a fitting project to mark the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the Women’s Institute movement. Thus, a campaign was launched in 1945 encouraging every WI Branch in Ontario to prepare a history of their local community before the 1947 celebrations took place. This proved a popular project, and these local histories were officially named Tweedsmuir History Books in 1947.

For the most part, these histories followed a specific format: a history of the particular branch of the Woman’s Institute, a general history of the

community, farming and farms, family histories, churches, schools, libraries and other local history and photographs provided by the community.



*Karl Allison  
Benjamin Fidler  
William Vansickle  
Jim Foster*      *In horse and buggy  
Robert J. Fatt (Sally Hephner father)*

The Flamborough Archives is the repository for several of these Tweedsmuir Histories and they are all treasure troves – some more detailed than others but all of them are invaluable local history resources.

The Millgrove Tweedsmuir History is one of the more comprehensive compilations, comprised of



*Sold it in May 1956  
to the government to  
widen the highway.  
The Baptist Church  
in Flamboro Centre  
brought it  
for a Sunday school.*

four large volumes. The Millgrove branch was active from 1908 to April 30, 1996 and we also hold their Minute books from May 1938 through July 1996.

Like so many of the Women's Institute branches, Millgrove was an integral part of their community. They provided funds to purchase a community park, supported the 4-H Association, provided a library service for over 40 years prior to the Millgrove library being established, and funded Citizenship and Student of the Year awards for Millgrove School.

What makes this set of four volumes so much fun to browse through are the many newspaper clippings giving a glimpse of community life through the years. These contain snippets of information often difficult to find – important to the people they directly impact but not always documented. Many of these clippings are sports related but they cover a broad spectrum from school awards to service clubs to changes to local buildings to family events.



Kevin Tee relaxes in his backyard pool after returning from the Children's Olympics in Darmstadt, Germany where he won a silver medal in the freestyle relay. Tee and his swimming teammates represented Hamilton-Westworth, hosts for 1994 competition.

## Scouts will fold without a leader

As of Wednesday, October 14, 1987 the 3rd Waterdown Scout Troop won't be meeting anymore. We boys are willing, but we can't find anyone to be our Leader.

We are really going to miss the fun, learning and adventure that we've come to love in the past. We all went to Cubs and had hoped to continue to learn and to practice the skills we know. Scouting teaches a boy about the world, being kind, courteous, and helpful. To love our country, nature and fellow man. To respect others and to rely on ourselves. To be dependable and to do our best to help make this world a better place for everyone. These are all good qualities that we want to have when we grow up.

We hope that someone will read this and care enough to volunteer to be our leader. We

are fortunate to be sponsored by the Waterdown Legion and they have been generous to us. We are a well equipped troop. We have been meeting on Wednesday nights from 7-9 p.m. at the Sealey Park hall. No special training in Scouting is required to be a leader, just a caring adult, who likes kids and is will-

ing to guide us. Our old Leaders can't do it anymore because their jobs have changed. They will be willing to help a new Leader to learn what they will need to know.

We hope someone will try it. We're sure you'll like it. Please give us a chance. Please contact Tim Eagan at 634-0207.

Often a write-up or a caption with a photo will give information that puts a piece of a puzzle together, or provides identification of the individuals in the photo.

The Archives has many photos which have been donated over the years, often without dates or information about the image but the information has sometimes been found in the various Tweedsmuir Histories we have.



### Breathless

Men Binkley of Millarova and Hamilton-Westworth MP Geoff Scott are breathless trying to pick up a 225-kilogram (500-pound) pumpkin. Mr. Binkley's monster pumpkin on the Giant Pumpkin Contest at the

October 1991

Hockton World's Fair. "I've never seen a pumpkin that big," Mr. Scott said. "I never would have believed it was possible. That's half a ton!"

Photo by Martha Jette

We are very fortunate that the Women's Institutes have assembled these wonderful community memories. Many of these Tweedsmuir Histories are being microfilmed as part of a project partially funded by a Documentary Heritage Communities Program Grant from Library and Archives Canada and will be available on the FWIO website, under Digital Collections.

**The Flamborough  
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Heritage Society

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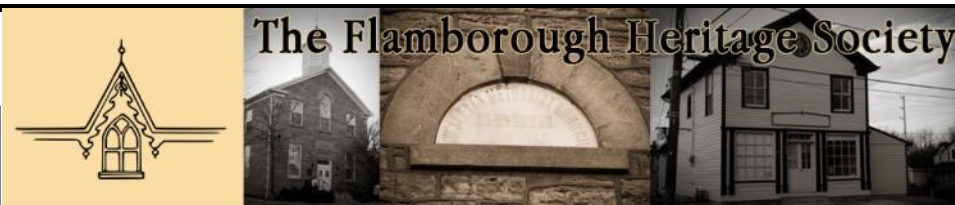
Mary Beth Kennedy

Meghan Martin

Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Some good news for the Society!

Thanks to Meghan Martin's social media posts, we have seen a number of new members join the Society.

Without running the Book Fair, our major annual fundraiser, we need to rely on our membership fees and donations to cover our operating costs. So these new members are especially important us.

If you are online please make sure you follow our Facebook Page, Instagram and Twitter accounts. Share our posts with your family and friends, so we can continue to grow our online presence and hope they translate to new members.

Chris Rivait, President

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### 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://www.grimsbyhistoricalsociety.ca)

The **Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society**-

[www.hamiltonheritage.ca](http://www.hamiltonheritage.ca)

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

[Head of the Lake Historical Society](http://www.headofthelakehistoricalsociety.ca)

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)