

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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A Tour of Flamborough History

As pandemic measures begin to ease, the WEFHS board has been searching for ways to promote local history in the community and engage residents in safe—and fun—way. So, check out the Back in Time History Quest II – Grand Tour, which has been posted to our [web site](#).

Like the original scavenger hunt in 2019 and our popular Virtual Walking Tours, this edition of the History Quest is designed to bring Flamborough heritage to life by getting residents out of the house to interact with sites of historical interest. This time, though, it will be a Flamborough-wide activity so

you will need to do it by car.

To participate in this edition of the Back in Time History Quest, you can access and print off a clue sheet from our web site, and drive to the first location. There is also an audio file you can download to your phone that provides interesting facts about each site. The quest includes stops in communities from Waterdown and Carlisle to Freelon and Beverly, and will take a couple of hours to complete. This is NOT a race, but you will log your mileage as part of the fun. We also recommend taking along a reliable navigator to help you follow the clues.

Flamborough Museum Moving Forward

The Flamborough Heritage Society is excited to support the plans for the Flamborough Museum, spearheaded by Waterdown resident Garth Wetherall. The proposed museum has registered with the Ontario Historical Society and established a web site, www.flamboroughmuseum.ca.

Led by a steering committee that includes Flamborough Heritage Society volunteer archivist Lyn Lunsted and board members Meghan Martin, Kim

Hirst and Nathan Tidridge, the museum will complement the ongoing work of the Flamborough Archives and the Waterdown District High School Museum of Hope, and work with both groups to curate exhibits that bring local heritage to life.

The steering committee currently is working to locate a permanent physical site for the museum. Read a recent [article in the Flamborough Review](#) to learn more about this exciting project.

Monthly Statistics: June 2021

Phone calls:	8	Website hits:	2,018
Emails:	52	Items catalogued:	16
Facebook queries:	1	New acquisitions:	3

Medicine in Flamborough—Part 1

Heritage Paper # 296

I well remember one case, that of a man who had been accidentally shot in the axilla (armpit). I think, if I remember rightly, he had been shooting wild fowl on the bay shore. Drs. Mallach and Mullin were called in consultation with myself, and I remember we had to drive him part of the way in a democrat then row him across the bay in a small boat to the old hospital at the foot of John Street. It was one of the worst wounds I have ever seen, the larger blood vessels being burst and torn. In spite of the day and night nurses and the most careful attention, bleeding commenced again and death resulted.

— Undated Hamilton Newspaper, 1932

In the interview above, Dr. William Philp recalled the early days of his career in Waterdown (c. 1864), illuminating the medical treatment of a fatal injury in the mid-nineteenth century. A hospital was needed, but transportation methods were limited and between three doctors and numerous nurses, nothing could be done to stop the bleeding.

Innovations in medical science were numerous in this period and modern theories such as germ theory, which are often taken for granted today, revolutionized



Dr. William Philp (left) and Dr. D.A. McClenahan (in a Waterdown Football Club photo) were two of Waterdown's

how health was understood. Innovations were more than merely scientific, Philp prefaced the above quote, stating, "one of the things we should be more grateful for is the modern motor ambulance."

In Flamborough during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, medical practice was much different from today. While numerous doctors worked in Flamborough from its earliest days to the present, and an effort has been made to mention as many of them as possible here, the main physicians under focus in this vignette are William Philp, D.A. McClenahan, and J.O. McGregor.



An example of a democrat, which was the primary means of transporting patients in Flamborough in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



At left, Dr. J.O. McGregor attended high school in Guelph, but earned his M.D. degree in Michigan. At right, Drs. Wm. Philp and D.A. McClenahan had a medical office attached to their house.

There were only a few medical schools that were accessible to Canadians in the nineteenth century, so doctors often received transnational training in Britain or the United States. Flamborough's doctors were no exception: Dr. J.O. McGregor attended high school in Guelph, but acquired his M.D. degree at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Other doctors were trained in Canada, specifically, the University of Toronto: McClenahan graduated from Trinity College, Toronto; Philp was educated at Victoria in 1863, but travelled to New York in the same year for practical experience, visiting "the various hospitals and dispensaries in that city and making a special study of the diseases most commonly met with in practice," and establishing himself in Waterdown the following year.

There were a few medical schools in nineteenth century Ontario and by the end of the century, medical education was growing. Flamborough's medical families reflect this trend. As the century turned, doctors' children began being trained at the University of Toronto, like Rob Roy McClenahan graduating 1912 or James Kenneth McGregor graduating 1905. However, Dr. J.K. McGregor continued the tradition of transnational medical training by studying in "Great Britain, Europe and at the Mayo Clinic" after his graduation. Outside of their training and into their careers, the local doctors were usually apart of the Canadian, American, and British Medical Associations, allowing them to participate in new medical

discoveries. How medical doctors were educated and how they continued to communicate through their careers emphasizes how connected the Anglophone world truly was.

While William Philp (working in Waterdown from 1864-79) and D.A. McClenahan (working from 1900-1912) had a medical office attached to their house, many doctors operated through house calls. This often involved arduous journeys to the country, usually from Waterdown. Philp described travel: "We, of course made all our distance calls with a horse and buggy, and in the winter—and there were some real winters in those days—you have to use a cutter."

Tied to this and in an effort to be more efficient, doctors adopted the latest forms of technology to get from patient to patient. From the early nineteenth century, "pioneer doctors were in full agreement on one subject, the state of the roads" which continued to plague them into the twentieth century. Dr. D.A. Hooper (working from 1911-1943) drove a Model-T Ford in the summer, but still used a horse and buggy in the spring and fall and a horse and cutter in the winter.

Most doctors in this period lived in Waterdown, but it is important to note that these doctors served the wider community by travelling through Flamborough to make house calls and attend to the sick.

-Nick Bridges, Former Student Volunteer



Flamborough Headlines

Summer was a slow season for news in town in 1957. The July 18 edition of The Waterdown Review offered 4 pages of stories, photos and advertising to keep local residents up to date, and the editorial focused on family activities that were available in town.

Township Council Advises Delegation To Support Zoning Plan for 4th Con.

Plans for a zoning by-law affecting the area between the 3rd and 4th Concessions (Mountain Brow Rd. and Parkside Dr.) and possibly 100 feet north of the 4th Concession are being drawn up.

All property owners in the area should give it full consideration when a meeting of the public is called for presentation of the plan. Unless it is given support the council cannot refuse a permit for any commercial enterprise in a residential area. Many have regretted they did not give the zoning by-law support when council first introduced it in 1954.

Local Items

Rev. And Mrs. F.G. Rice and daughter Anne of Forth Worth, Texas, are spending the month with Mrs. Rice's parents Mr. and Mrs. George McKay.

Bill Cornfield has returned after spending two weeks with Al Moon and family at his cottage at Nine Mile

Lake.

Mrs. Gwen Attridge has sold her home at the corner of Main Street and Dundas Street to the Royal Bank of Canada and purchased the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Doughty opposite the High School who are moving to University Gardens, Dundas.

Ralph West of the Royal Canadian Navy Air Force surprised his parents Mr. and Mrs. Frank West when he flew home for a two-day visit.

Police Report Heavy Sunday Traffic

Police report that traffic over the past weekend was probably the heaviest in history.

From Friday evening until late Sunday all the highways were plugged with cars.

At stoplights on No. 5 highway cars were sometimes lined up for half a mile.

An estimated 125,000 cars passed Wolfe Island on Sunday and on the Beach strip a line of cars extended back to the Stoney Creek traffic circle.



Local business ads in the July 18, 1957 edition of the Waterdown Review.

TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES

We recently received a large donation of material from the estate of Beatrice Woolsey of Mountsberg. Included in the items is a doctor's bag, medicine vials and instruments which belonged to her father, Dr. Robert G. Woolsey. Although he practiced in New York city, he returned to the family home in Mountsberg when he retired in 1962. When he died in 1968, the property passed to his two daughters.

With the death of Bea Woolsey in 2019, the house has passed out of Woolsey hands for the first time since 1892.



THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

The Canada West Society Collection

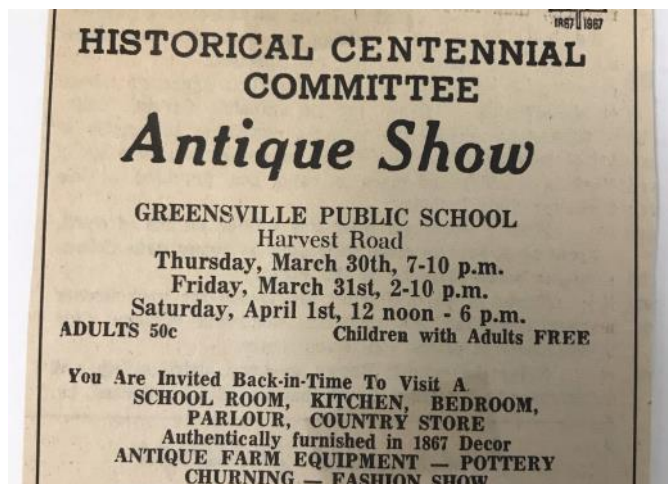
For some, the name may evoke an image of the Canadian Prairies or perhaps the mountains of British Columbia. For others, it refers to the early name of what is now Ontario – Canada West. This collection contains holdings of a society in the Township of West Flamborough, in Ontario. It began as an amalgamation of the West Flamborough Historical Committee and the West Flamborough Farm Organizations Committee, in order to preserve and continue the work done to celebrate Canada's Centennial in 1967.



Although the groups began working together in 1966, it wasn't until May 30 1967 that the groups passed a motion to amalgamate and become known as the Canada West Society. The purpose in establishing the Society was to 'create an institution for the preservation, study and display of natural objects, or those made by man, and the publication of the information derived.' The group also undertook to record the development and history of the area.

This collection contains a variety of documents. There are minutes from June 1966 to 1987. The early minutes contain detailed information on their events, and membership lists. There are files of correspondence and financial statements. By far, the bulk of the material relates to the Antique show held at Greensville Public School over the Easter Weekend in March 1967.

This show was an ambitious undertaking, and the Society took over several classrooms for individual exhibits. These were set up to portray a kitchen, bedroom, parlour, country store, and a post office.



There were displays of farm tools and machinery, school and church picture and documents, clothing, and military items such as uniforms, firearms, and flags. There was a fashion show, craft display including spinning, weaving, rug hooking and pottery. Butter churning resulted in fresh butter to have with bread baked on the premises. In all, over 160 people donated time and material to make the event a huge success.



Sadly, what is missing is an inventory list of the items lent for display. There is a copy of the inventory form, and a list of the original property deeds which were displayed, but no listing of all of the other items which are mentioned briefly in various newspaper articles and correspondence.

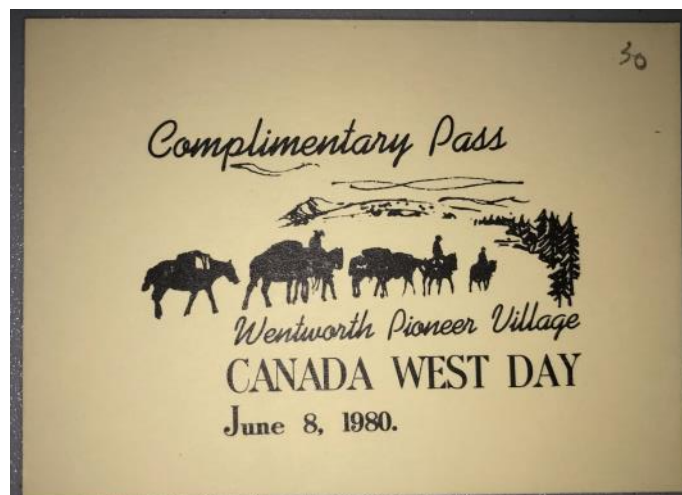
Unfortunately, in the fall of 1967, just months after the organization had been created, the Canada West Society suffered a major setback when 160 of the historical documents in their possession were destroyed in a fire at Glenwood Church where the items were being stored. Much of the material was a collection which had recently been donated by Mrs. J. McKinley Morden, relating to the pioneering history of West Flamborough.



The Canada West Society was determined to carry on and over the next twenty-five years hosted a series of community events including auctions, art shows, antique shows and lectures.



They set out to conduct an inventory of items found on Century Farms that were in use prior to 1865, using that cut-off date because the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Wentworth County had been published in 1865 and contained the names of the property owners.



The members of the Society offered their assistance for special occasions, and activities at Westfield Pioneer Village which became the main focus of their volunteer work.

By the early 1990's the Canada West Society's membership had drastically decreased and there was no indication that any new members were interested in revitalizing the Society's activities. Around that time the Westfield Pioneer Village was placed under the jurisdiction of the Hamilton Wentworth Conservation Authority, which unfortunately resulted in a loss of the sense of loyalty members had previously had to the Village.

In 1993 the Society officially ceased operations. Their records were microfilmed by the Ontario Archives, and the originals were donated to the Flamborough Archives in 1994.

**The Flamborough
Heritage Society**

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Officers 2020–2021

President: Chris Rivait

1st Vice President:

Corrie Giles

Secretary: Sue McNally

Acting Treasurer: Lyn Lunsted

Past-President:

Nathan Tidridge

Board Members

Bailey Cripps

Brenda Jefferies, Newsletter

Mary Beth Kennedy

Meghan Martin

Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for your patience and support over the past 18 months as we have worked our way through COVID and trying to stay connected. We hope that you have found the various postings on our social media platforms interesting and fun—Meghan Martin has done a fantastic job for us!

As we move into a new membership year, the Board is determined to get back to our regular meetings, even if they are held via Zoom. We are still working out the specifics so stay tuned.

At this point the Archives is hoping to reopen to the public, effective Tuesday August 19 although the hours will be reduced. The Archives will be open from 1-4 pm Tuesday to Friday and researchers are asked to please make an appointment as the space has a maximum occupancy of 3 people, including the volunteers.

Stay safe and we hope to see you soon.

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