

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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WEFHS Board 2021-2022

Positions are open on our Board of Directors.

Please contact us if you are interested—or know of someone who is.

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FlamboroughHistory.com

November Zoom Meeting

This month we will explore the history of the Around the Bay Road Race with its director, Anna Lewis. While she was the director of St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation, Anna was in downtown Hamilton and saw the start of the race.



She decided then, that she wanted to try running and fell in love with it.

Anna is going to tell us about how the first race held on Christmas day in 1894 has become the oldest road race in North America.

ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday November 24, 2021

8:00 p.m.

The Zoom link to pre-register will be sent out closer to the date. Feel free to forward it on to friends. The meeting begins at 8:00 PM but the waiting room is open from 7:45 PM.

FLAMBOROUGH REMEMBERS

Along with the Flamborough Poppy Project display at Waterdown's Memorial hall, the Heritage Society has a new display in the Waterdown branch of the Hamilton Public Library.

"Flamborough Remembers" features artifacts from the two most recognized conflicts of the last century – World War I, and World War II. Thanks goes to members who loaned items to make this display possible.

Canadians have served diligently in both times of conflict and peace, and while our display does not feature items from other, less celebrated conflicts, Remembrance Day is for all

of those who served, where or when required.

Read more in "Treasures from the Archives", page 9.

FLAMBOROUGH REMEMBERS



The Canadian Homefront: Waterdown Part 2— From Sugar to Rubber: Rationing and Shortages in Flamborough

Heritage Paper # 299

Where there is war, there must be sacrifice. This might take the form of enlisting, purchasing victory bonds or even rationing food and material for the war effort. Collections were a common way of gathering materials, but ration books were incredibly popular during the Second World War and after. Ration books contained stamps or coupons for goods that were being conserved, such as liquor or paper. While some were willing to take these changes in stride, others became dissatisfied with having to give up so much. The government was able to effectively mobilize much-needed resources for a more efficient war effort and while not everyone would be in agreeance about the rationing, this was a joint experience that affected everyone in the community, leading to a somewhat reluctant unity.

One would be hard-pressed to find something that did not contain sugar; sweets have and will continue to be wildly popular in the future. Unfortunately, during the war, not only did Canadians

ration their sugar as a result of their supplies being cut off by the enemies, but they also had to think of other occupied or attacked European allies who had significant shortages. The rationing of sugar started near the beginning of the war and continued to change and morph with societal requirements. Regulations had started near the beginning of the war and in 1942, sugar was rationed at $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds per person per week. In May of the same year, this was reduced to $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per person per week. By July, rationing by coupon was in effect with misuse leading to prosecution. Coupons that were torn not in the presence of the grocer would lose their value. Sugar rationing continued to fluctuate as the war raged on. Rationing affected everyone in the community from regular citizens to restaurants. By the end of the war, life theoretically would go back to normal; however, that would be an idyllic world and rationing continued to plague the nation for some time. In June 1945, export countries were either still occupied or had a massive manpower shortage, affecting sugar production. As well, liberated areas needed all the help they could receive, especially with food shortages. As a result, sugar usage was cut by five pounds with a monthly allotment of one pound in June, July, August, October, and December and two pounds in September and November. While people were short on sugar, those wanting to can and



An example of a Canadian ration book. These coupons were used to purchase commodities that the government had designated as scarce. From stampcommunity.org.

preserve their food could easily apply for canning sugar. While there was always extra sugar for those looking to create some preserves, this became progressively different as the war continued. Jars, rubbers, and powders quickly were becoming out of stock in local shops with Geo A. Weeks advertising in the June 25th, 1942 edition of *The Waterdown Review* that new stock came in of jelly powders which were "difficult to obtain." Vinegar was being advertised as a substitute for canning sugar and preserves were also rationed in September 1943. The rationing of sugar and its related products were harsh and while many "loyal Canadians" would be overjoyed at the opportunity to help their country in its time of need, this was a shared experience that many struggled through.



*Sugar rationing advertisement
Flamborough Review, June 21, 1945*

There was plenty of animal product that was rationed, but one of the longest-lasting rationing schemes was that of meat. Meat was one of the first food products to be rationed since it was needed on so many fronts. While farmers were able to answer the call of the government and upped production, meat consumption had rapidly increased within Canada during the war, leading to greater demand all over the globe. The Armed Forces, as well as other workers on

the front, needed food and meat, in all its different forms, was one of the best to send to the front. Even the Red Cross required canned meat to give to Prisoners of War (POW) and areas such as Newfoundland and the West Indies who relied on exports for their meat were given Canadian assistance. United Nations ships calling on Canadian ports were frequently supplied with several rationed products, including meat. One of the greatest 'vacuums' for meat was Britain, who still utilized rationing well after the war, and Canada sent over several products and created numerous organizations, such as Bacon for Britain, to help the motherland. After both Germany and Japan were defeated in 1945, meat rationing continued to feed starving Europe, which, as mentioned previously, had occurred throughout the war, especially for Britain and Russia. Considering how stretched thin the meat supplies already were, shortages were very common at the time and more restrictions were put into place, including the use of coupons for any animals slaughtered, even those consumed by the farmer, and stored meat above four pounds at a rate of two pounds per coupon as of late September 1945. Meat also had different uses outside of consumption; fat and bones were commonly used within explosives and were widely encouraged to be donated by the government. After an animal was killed during the war, every part of it was used to further the war effort. The Canadian and Ontario governments were able to mobilize their resources to better serve the war efforts and other nations; however, people were agitated, and, while a change in focus towards national health occurred in March 1943, this was a shared struggle that brought many together.

When looking at the history of the Homefront in the Second World War, people will first think of food when hearing the word rationing; however, this operated on a much grander scale and incorporated scraps and useful materials for construction like scrap metals and rubber.

Continued next page



Rationing occurred around the world, and advertising how much others sacrificed motivated rationing on the home front.

Flamborough Review— July 30, 1942

In Waterdown, there were numerous scrap drives run by different organizations with some donating proceeds to the Red Cross, but all donated materials were utilized for the war effort. Regarding scrap metal, the population was encouraged to dig through everything in their home, including their old sheds to find metal. Anything over 500 pounds could be kept unless an individual had a permit and hoarding became illegal in September 1942 with fines up to five thousand dollars, five years in prison, or both. Scrap metal dealers or processors could keep their metal for processing; however, proper documentation and business registration would be required. While mining for needed materials occurred, the war prevented imports from coming over, leading to a greater shortage of material. Donations were vital to the war effort with slowed importation ultimately affecting multiple resources. As the war progressed, Japan's control over rubber imports led to a massive shortage for the allies. In April 1942, the Department of

Munitions and Supply called on the public to collect and donate their scrap rubber for the war effort. Rubber committees were formed in various townships with nine to ten dollars being offered per ton of rubber. Shortages of rubber were felt a lot earlier in 1942 as seen by a WC Langford ad encouraging people to buy hot water bottle since there was a lack of production due to the scarcity of rubber. Rubber shortages were also felt in the production of other goods, such as shoes. As their materials were mobilized to aid the war overseas, the people of Flamborough and Canada had to change and adapt to these new restrictions.

As the war progressed, more materials were needed to fuel any advances made on enemy territory; needless to say, gasoline was vital to this effort. In the early years of the war, motorists were encouraged to save gas to help out those on the frontlines and were advised to carpool when going to events, keep spark plugs clean, short trips into town should be on foot, and much more. Certain groups, such as fishermen and farmers, could purchase marked gasoline, which was exempt from the Ontario Tax. Marked gasoline ended with gas rationing at the end of the war. While many were able to conserve gas for the fighting forces,

**TO BOMB BERLIN
PLANES NEED GAS!
LEAVE YOUR CAR
AT HOME**

GO BY BUS

While riding with your fellow passengers you go more miles per gallon—and you still enjoy the convenience of highway travel direct to downtown in any town.

FARES ARE LOW

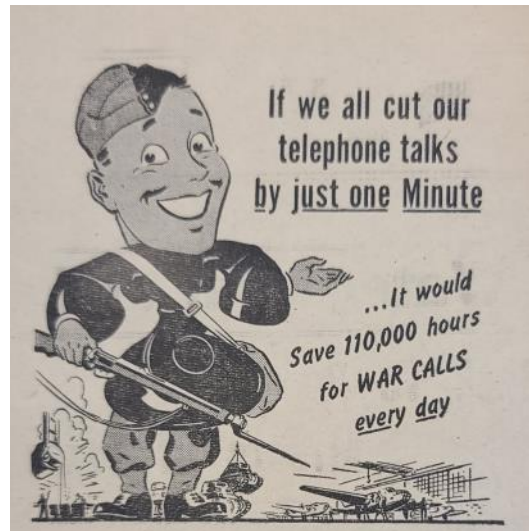
TONONTO	\$ 2.00
OSHAWA	3.75
BARRIE	5.25
OTTAWA	13.70

Round Trip — Tax Included
Tickets and information at
Langford's Drug Store
PHONE 124

GRAY COACH LINES

The use of public transportation was encouraged to save gasoline. Flamborough Review—November 6, 1941.

ration books also had coupons for gas and the public was always told to keep an eye on their books in case of theft or misplacement. In June 1944, the course of the war and rationing on the Homefront changed course with the invasion of Europe. Citizens of Canada were called on to conserve more gas as the allies used about 200,000,000 gallons of gas on the bombing alone. While rationing gasoline was useful in conservation, travel was also restricted. The use of public transportation was thoroughly encouraged by plenty of local businesses including Gray Coach Lines in Langford's. While a smart plan for saving gasoline, this also created overcrowding, leading to older buses being utilized to conserve money for the war effort. Hours for non-essential workers were restricted with access on the weekends being given priority to the members of the armed forces on temporary leave.



Flamborough Review—March 4, 1943

Those who were returning home from work during rush hour were instructed to give their seats to tired war workers. Rationing of travel also extended to other services. Store deliveries were greatly impacted with many either restricting their hours or the maximum distance they can go. Restrictions and rationing fizzled out near the end of 1945 with the return of men and women overseas, but at the time, the people of Flamborough had to sacrifice another important part of their daily lives to aid in the mobilization of the country into total war, creating a shared experience throughout the community.



Flamborough Review—July 19, 1945

Rationing and shortages of food and materials affected everyone on the Homefront and while some may have seen this as another challenge they could overcome, others were agitated at how constrained their lives had become. Regardless, rationing is the ultimate symbol of total war, representing the all-encompassing nature of the Second World War in Canada. The nation was able to mobilize its resources successfully after the war concluded. Rationing was a major part of the war experience, leading to a unity that stretched across the country.

Tess Moffat
Archives Summer Student, 2021

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

As one of the most active Heritage Societies in Ontario, all of our work is accomplished through our volunteers and their dedication of time toward preserving history. You may wonder what exactly volunteers are doing – we're glad you asked!

CURRENT PROJECTS

As mentioned on the front page of the newsletter with more on page 9, volunteers have been updating our displays with the changing season. This month's displays relate to Remembrance Day and the centenary of the poppy. We reached out to members for artifacts to fill the display, spent time planning how to best showcase those artifacts, and researched information to share with the public when they visit. Stay tuned for future displays!

Our social media board member continues to find, research and share images and information on our social accounts as well as updating our website. This included spreading the word about our displays and events, editing, subtitling and uploading last month's meeting, scheduling posts and adding new pages to the website. Read more about our online presence on page 8.

Our business inventory is being catalogued and updated. This includes entering in over 1600 businesses that exist or have existed in Flamborough –their addresses, who the owner was, when they opened and any associated advertising. This listing will be updated on our website as time permits.



While we're grateful to those that volunteer their time, we need more help. Consider volunteering with the Society—not only do you help us fulfill our mandate, it can be a lot of fun! No matter how much or how little time you can commit, we'd love to hear from you.

ARCHIVES

We are forever thankful for our volunteer archivist, Lyn Lunsted.

Our archivist receives dozens of research requests every month, which can add up to several hours of research per request. These inquiries come from numerous places on multiple different subject matters, including genealogical inquiries.



Lyn also arranges and serves as tech support for our monthly meetings that are being held on her Zoom account.

With all these duties on top of the normal duties of an archivist, the amount of items catalogued is low. We have thousands of items catalogued, and hundreds more waiting to be input into the system. The current system is a time-consuming one, but we're working on that. With more acquisitions every month, help is needed to properly catalogue and archive these acquisitions.

Indexing of publications and other documents is something that is badly needed, and can be done at home. With COVID restrictions still in place we recognize that full volunteer staffing is still a long ways off but please let us know if you can help.

MEMBERSHIP



If you're reading Heritage Happenings, you're probably already a member. Your membership helps support us by funding our operating costs, and members receive this newsletter as well as priority at our monthly meetings, currently held by Zoom.

We encourage members to recruit more people to the Society — friends, family, colleagues.

Membership runs from September to August annually. Have you renewed your membership this year? More info on our website.

DONATE

It takes a lot to preserve history. While memberships, book sales, and grants help us with our day-to-day expenditures, we have projects and unexpected expenses that would be greatly supported by monetary donations. Whatever amount you are able to give, we appreciate and make sure that it is put towards our mission.

We thank all those who have donated materials to the Archives, including photographs, artifacts,

books, family histories, and so much more.

We're currently raising funds for the Flamborough Review Microfilm Project and an update for our SpaceSaver shelf system. More about these projects can be found on our website.

Please help us preserve our local history by donating today. Tax receipts are issued for donations \$25 and up. Thank you so much for your support.

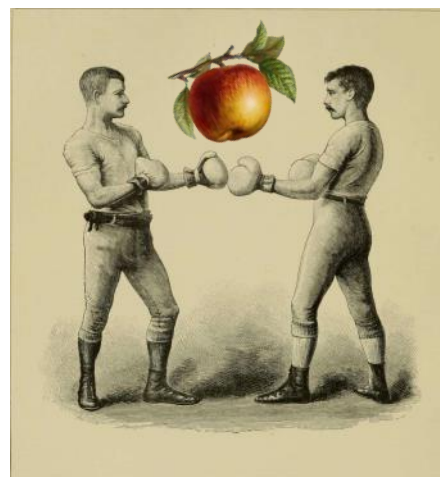


FOUND IN THE FONDS

When researchers peruse material at the Archives, they sometimes stumble across un-catalogued or unpublished information of interest. From a 1983 interview with Mickey Rocket, who came to Waterdown in 1914:

"Let me tell you about how Vinegar Hill got its name. In the early days the German and the Irish settled on the hill. They never could seem to get along, they were always at loggerheads with one another. They were so soured at one another that they named this Vinegar Hill."

A little different from the popularised origin of the name, which may have began because of the many market gardens with apple orchards that once lined the hill. Much of the apple crop, especially the windfalls and bruised fruit, were used for the production of cider made from late summer onwards. With no modern refrigeration available for storage, the cider had a very short life before fermentation changed it to vinegar. By the early Fall, the smell of fermenting apples was almost certainly noticeable to residents and visitors as they entered the village, which may explain the origin of the name.



Whether soured apples or soured relationships, the hill on the east side of Waterdown retains the name to this day.

OUR PRESENCE ONLINE

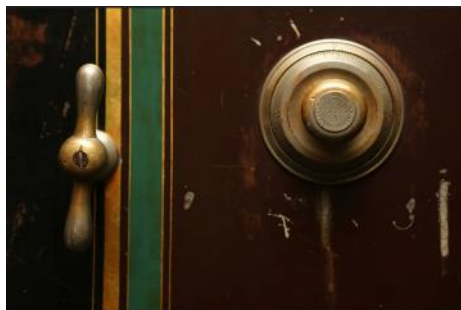
Our most popular Facebook post in October was associated with our display, “Products to Cell”. The Hamilton Spectator image of Mrs. Edith Zimmerman, switchboard operator at Freelon, reached over 15,000 people, being shared 30 times. Lots of memories of ‘party lines’, and the ‘old way’ of making a phone call.



We're slowly growing our followers on our Instagram account, sharing images originally shared on Facebook as well as new content. This image of the milk wagon from Carey's Walnut Ranch on the 4th Concession (Parkside Drive) reached 264 people with 12 shares. Amazing that the milk wagon travelled across Canada to BC being drawn by horse!



Our October monthly meeting was extremely popular, and the 100 available spots for the Zoom meeting filled up quickly! Former students and Society members joined Sister Joan Helm from all over the world for her presentation. We've edited and uploaded the meeting to our YouTube channel, and it is currently the most viewed video on our channel. Thanks to Sister Joan for her wonderful presentation.



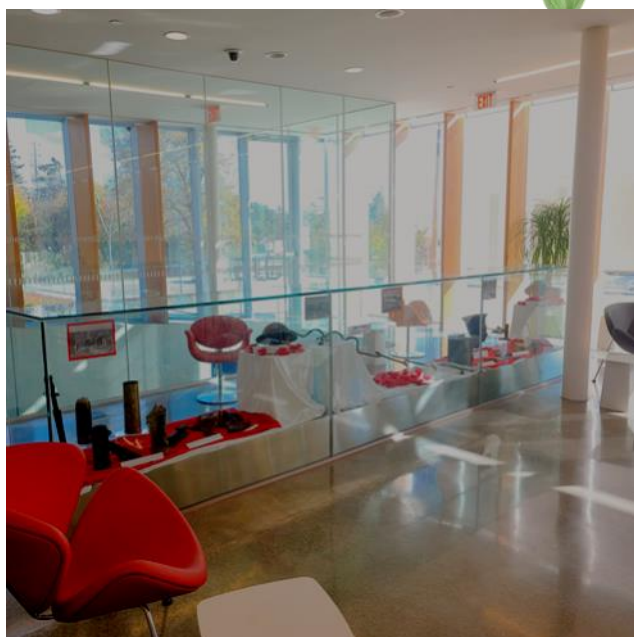
October 2021 has been the highest performing month for our website—our “home base” for history. We continue to share old Heritage Papers, and as the fall colours change in Flamborough our Back in Time History Quest II: Grand Tour saw a surge in popularity. We continue to update the website to gain more members, volunteers, and donations in order to preserve local history. Millgrove was in the spotlight for October, with Sylvia Wray's “From the Vault” article about Millgrove village gaining 265 views.

We encourage all of our members to follow, subscribe, share and overall enjoy our online activities. Many of these posts require countless volunteer hours to research and create. See you all online!

TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES

When a finished display is revealed, the effort of research and collecting appropriate items is well worth it. Our November displays feature hand-made poppies from local schools in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance.

We are fortunate to have the use of the large display case in the Waterdown branch of the Hamilton Public Library, and while it's difficult to photograph it serves as a wonderful area to showcase history.



Should you have ideas for display themes or artifacts you'd like to loan for our cases, we'd love to hear from you!

This 1915 card, a recent donation from Len and Carol Snell, is a beautiful example of a silk embroidered postcard. Soldiers were given free postage in the First World War, and postcards were a way families kept in touch.

Silk embroidered postcards were manufactured in France and Belgium, and became extremely popular with British soldiers. They were seldom sent through the post due to their fragile nature and the fact they were not a cheap souvenir. Instead, they were typically mailed with letters.

The colourful flags represent the nations of the Allies of World War I. Can you identify them all?



THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

The Stutt Family, Crooks' Hollow

The Crooks and Stutt families are synonymous with the industrial history of the portion of Spencer Creek which flows through Crooks' Hollow. Also known as Flamboro Creek, the capacity of the creek to provide power was enhanced by a dam, built above a small waterfall. James Crooks and his brother William built a square three storey mill, constructed of local limestone and timber prepared at the nearby Morden sawmill and called it the Darnley Mill.



By the middle of the century water levels had declined and nearby communities had increased their industrial reach. Following the death of James Crooks in 1860, the mill was eventually leased from the estate by Robert Sanderson. In 1869 he purchased the mill and invited James Stutt to join him.

James Stutt was born in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, on 2 February 1818. He and his wife Jane came to Canada in 1842. James promptly found work in Toronto and by 1862 was the Superintendent of one of the three Taylor Brothers' Don Valley Paper Mills. One of these buildings still stands today as Todmorden Mills and is a museum. The oldest brother, John Taylor tried making paper out of wood pulp to replace rags as a source for paper, and it is believed that some paper was actually made here using basswood. He was a pioneer in the technical development of Canada's paper industry.

Stutt, Sanderson & Co. converted the Crooks' Hollow mill from a grist mill to a paper mill, making straw-board paper. The machinery was purchased from Dr. Thomas Miller, the owner of a failed paper mill in West Flamboro Village. The partnership was successful but when Sanderson retired in 1880 James Stutt became the sole owner and four sons joined him – John Alfred, William James, George and Frederick.



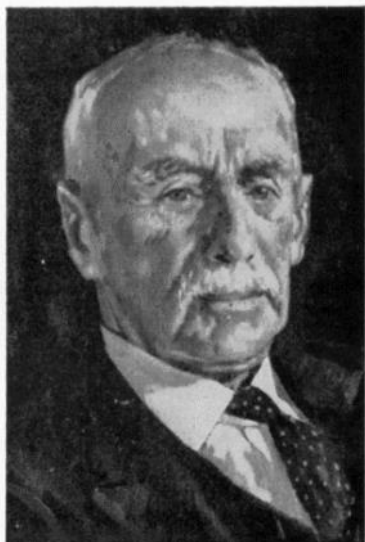
ROBERT SANDERSON

In 1943, when William J. Stutt was 85 years old, he wrote some reminiscences: 'When we arrived here in 1869, the Hollow had all the earmarks of a former industrial glory and was without any contradiction one of the busiest places in the County of Wentworth.'

The water level in Spencer Creek became unreliable and James added a steam boiler to supply hot water and to serve as an auxiliary power source. On 8 July 1885 the boiler blew up. It had not been used for several month because it needed repairs and when the flues were heated, there was a massive explosion which demolished the surrounding stone walls. Fireman Ed Malony and John Stutt, the son of James Stutt, were killed instantly. John was 32 years old.



STUTT MILL—After Explosion



W. J. Stutt

The mill was rebuilt and continued to be run by James Stutt until 1902 when his son William took over. He leased the property to the Adams Cellboard Company in 1922, and it was eventually sold to Greenville Paper.

In the 1930's the owners had been found to be dumping the mill waste into Spencer Creek and had been forced to halt production by the Town of Dundas which relied on the creek for its water supply. William Stutt recalled that the final judgement was harsh: '\$100 a week as long as any of the expressage in connection with the manufacture of paper was allowed to enter the creek.'

There appeared to be no financially viable solution to the pollution, and the owners abandoned the mill after a fire in 1934. The Stutt family assumed ownership again and Herbert Gordon Stutt, William's son, scrapped much of the machinery and shipped some of it to a factory in Toronto he had an interest in.

Although James Stutt and his wife Jane are buried in Grove Cemetery in Dundas Ontario, many of the Stutt family are buried in Christ Church Cemetery in Bullock's Corners.

Many of the Stutt men were Masons. John Stutt (1853-1885) joined the Masonic Lodge on 12 October 1881. His brother William James Stutt (1857-1951) joined the Dufferin Lodge in 1879, was Past Worshipful Master of his mother lodge, and District Deputy Grand Master of the District A.F. & A.M in 1927. He was a life-long member of the Methodist /United Church of Canada and was a member of Council and Deputy Reeve of West Flamborough Township.



Stutt's Falls behind the mill, photo postcard c. 1908

In one of the gateposts of the Stutt house on Crook's Hollow Road, you can still see three crudely incised Masonic markings in a stone which was originally over the main doorway of the Darnley Mill, rescued and preserved by William James Stutt.



Masonic carvings in the Stutt house gatepost.

**The Flamborough
Heritage Society**

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Instagram: @flamborougharchives

Twitter: @FlamboroHistory

YouTube: Flamborough Archives &
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Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was great to see so many people at our last monthly meeting — it was the highest attendance we've had in years. We hope to attract more members through the online Zoom format. Be sure to share with friends.

The Flamborough Poppy Project, one of many throughout Canada, was a great success with the help of the community and local schools. With no public remembrance ceremony it served as a way for the community to remember.

Our new pages highlighting some of our volunteer's work shows that you don't need to be a board member to help the Society. A couple hours can be spent on a specific project or a few hours a week for general help for as long as you like. Every little bit helps.

Have a safe and happy holiday season, and we'll see you in the New Year.

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.com)

The **Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society**-
www.hamiltonheritage.ca

The **Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society** -
[Head of the Lake Historical Society](http://HeadoftheLakeHistoricalSociety.com)

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

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

Flamborough Museum - <http://flamboroughmuseum.ca/>