

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.

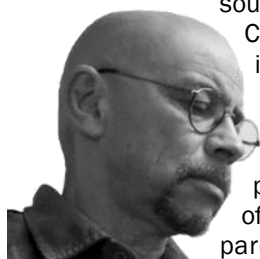
Phone
905-540-5161

Email
society@
FlamboroughHistory.com

February Zoom Meeting

Black History

Rob Green is the Vice Chair of the Halton Black History Awareness Society, and a 7th generation descendant of survivors of the underground railway. The runaway slaves came from Maryland, Virginia, and other southern states into Canada and freedom in the 1850's.



Mr. Green will present his family history, sharing photos and memories of his grandparents, parents, and other family members and of his childhood growing up in Owen Sound. He will provide personal and in depth accounts of the experiences and struggles that these former black slaves encountered

when they reached Canada. He will also talk about the history of his family as they progressed through the years to the present day.

ZOOM MEETING
Wednesday February 23, 2022
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.

Turn to page 5 for some Black History from Flamborough with an article on Reverend Isaac J. Rice.

VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

We love to explore different ways to share Flamborough's history. February 20th will be our first virtual trivia night, hosted through Zoom and using the Kahoot! platform.

The trivia includes communities from all over Flamborough, including some facts that may not be as well known. The questions also span multiple eras and topics, from post-glacial Flamborough, Indigenous history, and items from the Archives collection.

Interested? Check out the Trivia Night page on our website!



More about what we've got going on online and in person, pages 8-9

The Canadian Homefront: Waterdown Part 4 — Registration and Recruitment in Flamborough

Heritage Paper # 301

Canada's total war effort required the mobilization of both people and resources within the country's borders, including those who were being trained for the theatres of war elsewhere. Canada's recruitment process relied on volunteers, national registration, and eventually conscription, creating a massive source of manpower. While a national shared experience of sacrifice, mobilization for the war front affected every community, including Flamborough.



Registration ad, Flamborough Review, 21 Jan 1943

After war was declared in 1939, troops were sent overseas, but unfortunately, by mid-1940, the western front collapsed, and the Canadian

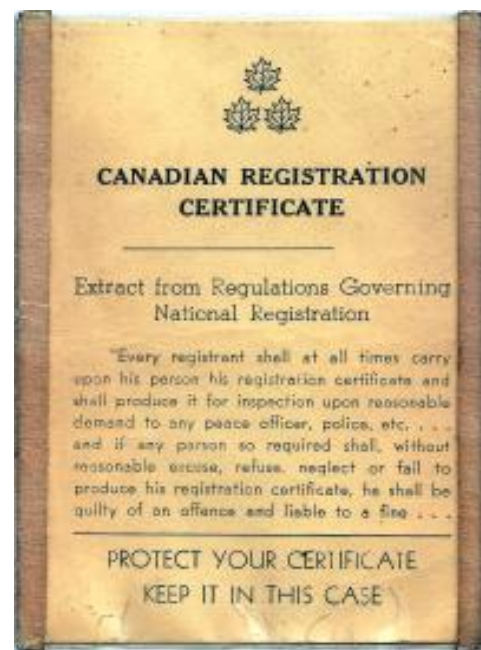
government needed to send over more men. National registration took place in August 1940 to completely mobilize the population. Those over sixteen had to give their personal information, including job history, which would give the government an inventory of the available skills that could be utilized for the war. Men who were eligible for service were also required to have a medical test done to determine their qualifications for becoming a member of the armed forces. Conscription was not a part of the National Resources Mobilization Act of June 1940 but would quickly become an issue as the war progressed. The call for volunteers was not restricted to after the passing of the act, especially with the encouragement of women to volunteer as nurses in the early months of the war. National registration was announced in The Waterdown Review on July 18, 1940 with the appointment of AJ Nash of Hamilton as Registrar for the constituency. Name registrars were listed the first of August with Waterdown being supervised by Jammie Douglas and M Langford for No 1, and Mrs. Clifford Attridge Blanche and E Anderson for No 2. For East Flamborough, No. 1 was supervised by Phyllis Aikins and A Lancefield, No. 1A by Kenneth Smiley and John B Robinson, No.2 by Miss M Baker and Geo. B Stock, No.3 by Miss Marie Mills and Roy Robinson, and No.4 by Albert Emmons and Chas. Elliott. Municipal Hall was listed as the place of registration in Waterdown with The Waterdown Review encouraging women to register in the morning to give the men the afternoon. Registration was a community duty and reflected both national and local patriotism; the municipal paper called on everyone to encourage their neighbours to register for the community spirit. National registration began on the nineteenth of August and continued to the twenty-first. While a shared experience across the land, national registration, especially the build-up, was the opportunity many small communities believed they could use to prove themselves.

With registration starting mid-August, the community quickly mobilized to meet the

government's needs. While a reflection of community identity and pride, the population would react to registration in such a way for several reasons, including a fine of two hundred dollars, imprisonment of three months, or both with ten dollars each day one was not registered. In Waterdown, over 400 people went to Municipal Hall with other locals choosing to go to other centres. The response was large. With this information, the government would be able to call on any person in case of emergency even for conscription. Those who had registered and were applicable for service would be sent a notice in October calling on the single men and childless widowers to go to a doctor for a medical exam and if healthy, report to a military training camp for thirty days. This was primarily for home defence with those wanting to go overseas having to volunteer as well. Those who chose to stay at home were subjected to ridicule and were labelled 'zombies' as they were neither alive, fighting, or dead, being regular citizens. Military camps and training courses were set up all over the area, especially at McMaster University which housed nutritional and officer courses throughout the war. The government was attempting to avoid the conscription crisis of the First World War and found a middle ground that was still opposed by some, including Montreal mayor Camillien Houde. Registration was a shared experience of sacrifice and local patriotism.

Many within Flamborough answered the call and went overseas or were mobilized within Canada. It was not only men who did their part for the warfront; Hazel Blagden and Evelyn Hopkinson of Flamborough volunteered as nurses in Africa in 1941. Other men who went overseas were Hugh Drummond, Ron Thompson, Ken Lingen, Donald R Moyer, and many more. Some were casualties of war, such as Thompson, and others who did not return, such as Hugh Drummond in 1944 and Harry Nicholls in 1940. This was the unfortunate experience many faced during the war. Volunteering overseas came with a considerable price that some had to pay. This

created a sense of unity and community in both the Homefront and warfront. While sadness and pain were inevitable, so was patriotism and pride. Harry Nicholls met his tragic end charging into battle, putting three machine guns out of action and, despite his wounds, attacked the infantry before his demise. Flight Lieutenant John McColl of Waterdown earned recognition in 1944 with the shooting down of three enemy aircrafts. Events in the theatres of war had a tremendous effect on all fronts, especially the Homefront. Through government actions,



National Registration Certificate case, n.d.

communities were able to mobilize and send their best to fight for King and Country and aid populations in need; however, these soldiers and female volunteers were spouses, parents, and children with their greatest achievements or their injuries and deaths having a tremendous impact on their loved ones, especially in a small community where everyone knows everyone. Recruitment created a sense of both national and municipal pride, but the shared experience of sacrifice and heartbreak was always quick to follow in wartime.

As the war progressed, employment transfers and lowered restrictions to

Continued next page

age were implemented to combat the loss of men and women. In 1942, the people of Canada voted to determine whether or not to give the government a free hand in the war with conscription and in April, Bill 80, as a result of the vote, was introduced, which stated that conscription could be introduced if deemed necessary. As the Homefront continued to fill any vacancies left behind in the workforce, the armed forces were running out of their pool of voluntary manpower. After D-Day in 1944, high casualties on the front as well as smaller numbers for soldiers as opposed to the air force and the navy led to increased movements within the government for conscription. Many had been rejected initially or were a part of the home defence, which was decreasing in size as a result of the success on the Western Front. While Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King had stood firm on his anti-conscription stance, he was forced to call the House into session and changed

tactics, especially with ministers threatening to resign if he did not issue conscription. In late November of 1944, a national response to conscription was announced much to the joy of some and displeasure of others. Some 60,000 personnel had been recruited as a result of The National Resources Mobilization Act, but the numbers for those who were drafted were considerably smaller at a little over 12,000 with only a fraction making it overseas before Germany surrendered. Draftees were taken from several sources, especially from the home defence. Many from the area had volunteered for active service eventually, but seventy within the County of Wentworth, exclusive of Waterdown and Dundas, and twelve in Waterdown were applicable draftees for active service. Conscription for general forces also took the form of increased propaganda for the army as opposed to the air force which had more volunteers than it needed. The Conscription Crisis of 1944 was another example of sacrifice during the war that included manpower and general freedoms that some had chosen to give away while others did so reluctantly. Conscription was inevitable with the heavy casualties and length of the war and is another example of both the scale of mobilization during the war and the sense of community that was developed due to these shared experiences.

The war required sacrifice from many be it rationing or volunteering to go overseas with events such as national registration, pride and grief for local men and women, and conscription creating a sense of unity through loss. The Second World War helped to shape Canada into what it is today; however, the country's history is far more layered and darker than what is seen on the surface. Recruitment was far more than a patriotic act that made the population's hearts swell with pride since the war destroyed families and devastated communities.



From the Archives — examples of soldier's pay books, handbooks and training pamphlets, including each soldier's vaccination information.

Tess Moffat
Archives Summer Student, 2021

BLACK HISTORY MONTH – ISAAC J. RICE

A pastor with a tumultuous history, and witness to the abolition of slavery in the United States and the struggles of fugitive slaves on the Underground Railroad. Isaac J. Rice was a minister and missionary for freedom seekers from the United States, with a connection to Flamborough for the last fourteen years of his life.

Isaac was from Wayne, Ohio. Born in 1808, he began his theology studies in 1833 in New York. By 1836 he had returned to Ohio as a pastor of a Presbyterian Church. He married Sarah Alden Carpenter, and they had three sons.

Around 1849, Rice went to Amherstburg as a



Old Barracks at Fort Malden

missionary, running a mission for former slaves and a large school for black children at Fort Malden in Amherstburg, Ontario.

American abolitionist Levi Coffin referred to Amherstburg as “the great landing place, the principal terminus of the underground railroad of the west.” In 1855, the estimated population of Black people in Amherstburg was between 400 and 500. Just five years later, the estimate had increased to 800 out of a total population of 2,000. Migration was accelerated due to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which rendered slaves who escaped as well as those that assisted them vulnerable to capture and punishment.

Rice would’ve arrived to an Amherstburg where lake boats and ferries would arrive with as many as 15 people per boat, having crossed the Detroit River from the States. After the Fugitive Slave Act, this would increase to 30 people a day. As these

former slaves arrived impoverished, illiterate, and neglected, Rice kept a supply of goods they may need, including clothing. The mission soon ran out of funds, and Rice was described as someone who performed “devoted, self-denying work, and had received very little pecuniary help, and had suffered many privations.” At one point he had to sell his watch to pay for food. He appealed in a letter to the Western Citizen in Chicago for assistance. Despite his devotion to assisting fugitive slaves, he was criticized for his begging activities. In April of 1852, Rice was openly rejected by the directors and others of the Canada Coloured Missionary Society, who claimed that his begging that was carried on in the name of the Society only profited one or two individuals and a small clique. After being rejected by the Baptist congregation, Isaac Rice disappeared.

Around 1866, Rice was pastor for one year at Westover Baptist Church. In 1871, he served as the interim preacher, and by 1874 he accepted the position of pastor. Failing health forced him to resign in 1877, but he continued as a supply preacher. During his ministry, a baptistery was installed in the church. Rice held revival meetings in 1877, leading to 90 baptisms in a fortnight and 122 new members over the year. He died of inflammation of the lungs the morning of February 20, 1880, and was buried in the Westover Cemetery. His headstone reads: “For 14 years pastor of the Baptist Church, Westover”.



Westover Baptist Church, built 1845

Meghan Martin, Archives Volunteer

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

Our first trivia night has been in the works since before Christmas. We wanted to make sure as many people could join in as possible, and decided that Heritage Week would be the perfect time to host the event. We were able to connect with Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives that had held a similar event last year. Spearheaded by our volunteers, Kim Hirst and Meghan Martin, we hope those attending enjoy the evening and may explore more trivia nights in the future.

With the Archives re-opening in February, our volunteers are getting back to their normal schedules of research and assisting the archivist. The small display cabinet in the Archives now features a new Valentine's display, updated by Meghan in the first week of February.

We often hear from members, our volunteers, and the public about how things are changing, how they once were, and what's been lost. As a local heritage society and a community archives, we

are only as strong as our members and volunteers. In order to influence the preservation and sharing of our local history, we need people.



We do have tasks that can be completed from the comfort of your home. 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

What's happening in the Archives?



We're excited to announce we've received the first version of our new online cataloguing system! After several hours between our archivist,

Lyn Lusted, and the system's software developer, specifications and requirements have been finalized. This new system will save time by excluding the necessity to record the same information in multiple places. With the new streamlined cataloguing procedure, more of our uncatalogued items should be processed more efficiently, becoming easily accessible for research.

Lyn has also been kept busy with preparing all 100 pre-orders of Nathan's book. This includes keeping track of the orders, printing invoices, packaging and shipping mail orders, and spending a Saturday facilitating pickup orders.



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. Is your membership up to date? 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 appreciate 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 a catalogue database update, the Review microfilm project, and our shelf system update. 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

There's a lot to still be catalogued in the Archives, and exploring boxes of uncatalogued material can uncover some interesting finds. This tintype photograph, previously unidentified, is of the Eager House in Waterdown, still standing today at 340 Dundas St. East. Built for the Eager family c.1870 from plans drafted by Hamilton architect William Leith (1835-1880), this early photograph shows the house in its original state, including the fence that would have run along Dundas Street.

Tintypes began in 1856 when Ohio chemistry professor Hamilton Smith patented the tintype image. Commonly known as tintypes, they are not made from tin, but rather iron. Before tintypes, two main types of photographs existed—the daguerreotype and the ambrotype. The process to create these images was expensive and difficult, and photographers quickly adopted the durable, inexpensive, and easier emulsion process of tintype. Their popularity lasted until the early 1900's, after the introduction

of paper-based photographs in the 1860's.



Each tintype is typically a camera original, so the image is usually a mirror image, reversed left to right from reality. For ease of viewing, the image is flipped to its correct orientation.

OUR PRESENCE ONLINE

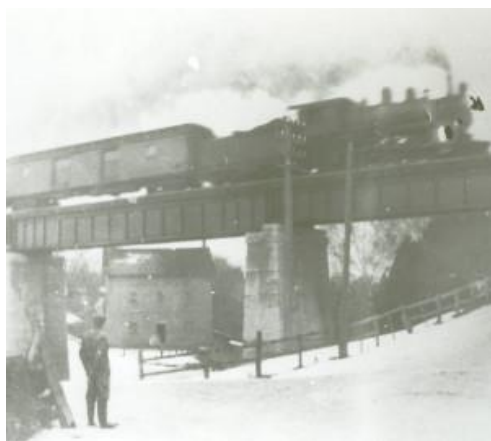
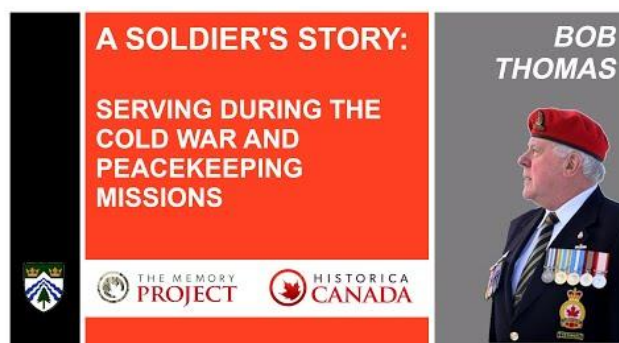
We continue to grow our following on our Instagram account. What was recently popular? This image of the original location of Bates & Green garage in Carlisle reached 264 people and garnered 37 reactions. This was Bates & Green's original location on Carlisle Road just west of the current Dutchman's Gold honey shop. They moved to their current location in 1954.



Our most popular Facebook post over the past couple months was associated with the upcoming release of the new Platinum Jubilee edition of Nathan Tidridge's 'The Extraordinary History of Flamborough'. The post announcing pre-orders reached 17,400 people, with 240 reactions. You can purchase Nathan's book online or in person for \$35.



We continue to upload our monthly meetings to our YouTube channel. Our January monthly meeting had a good showing of participants for Bob Thomas' presentation on his experiences serving in the Canadian Provost Corp. Our videos continue to gain views, and we hope to upload more soon.



Our website continues its role as our "home base" for history. Sales were helped along with an update to the shipping calculator, as well as adding the ability to sell pre-orders of new publications on the site.

Progreton was once again in the spotlight for January, with the fourth paper in the series getting 553 views. The other top performer was the shop page for Nathan's book — 437 people visited to check it out.

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

As we were closed through the month of January, 'Dressing for the Occasion' remains in the large display case in the Waterdown Library. Stay tuned—we're already planning the next one!



The Archives reopened in February, just in time to update the display inside. Our Valentine's display features cards from the Wray collection, as well as some related artifacts. A small display in the program room of the library features dance cards and a late 19th century Valentine. If you're in the area, we'd love if you come have a look!



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

Hitchin' a Ride

There are a few gems in our collection that have yet to be identified. Most photos and documents that are donated to the archives come with notes or contain familiar landmarks, unlike this example. This crowd appears to be on their way to a day at the beach, judging by their wide-brimmed straw hats, Edwardian swimwear, and cheerful disposition. Note the Kodak Junior 1A folding travel camera and the early utility poles.

Wherever these folks were off to, it must've been a day of fun with friends (maybe family!) in a sunny rural spot. Recognize the photo? Familiar faces? Be sure to let us know!



THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

Heritage Month

February is Black History Month, but it is associated with Heritage. Flamborough has comparatively little documented Black History making it a challenge to find material to explore. Heritage however is alive and well!

Since 1974 the third Monday in February has been known as Heritage Day. In 1985, the Province of Ontario designated the third week in February as Ontario Heritage Week. Heritage Day has also become known as Family Day and was first observed as a holiday in Ontario in 2008. Many heritage organizations use the month of February to highlight their activities, promote awareness of local history and present local heritage awards.

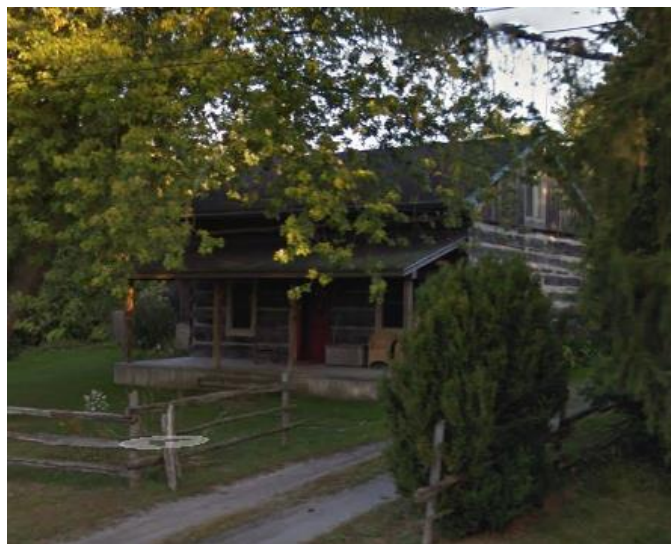
'Canada's collective story is told through our special places, whether they are historic buildings or sites, archives, libraries, museums, commercial main streets or districts, places of faith, industrial areas, or natural or cultural landscapes.

Our shared heritage and histories in all forms has the power to bring people together and create a sense of belonging. Gathering places like town squares, and pow wow grounds, and cultural objects such as artefacts, regalia and family memorabilia are tangible touchstones with the past that can root us in place and nourish the spirit. Intangible heritage – languages, traditional rituals, music, dance, storytelling and more – is at the heart of family and community.' From <https://ottawa.ca/en/arts-heritage-and-events/museums-and-historic-sites/heritage-day>

The Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Association is an umbrella organization formed in 1983. It's purpose is to link, serve, and fill in the gaps between heritage related organizations in Hamilton. They publish a directory each year 'Who's who in Heritage in Hamilton-Wentworth' listing names and contacts of location heritage organizations, museums and archives,

The Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee also plays a large role in preserving and recognizing heritage buildings and landscapes. In addition to the role of advising and assisting City Staff and Council on matters relating to the designation of property, review of heritage permits, and maintaining a list of properties and areas of cultural heritage value and interest, the Education sub-committee also researches and presents several heritage recognition awards each year. There are multiple categories and each recognizes a specific aspect of Heritage.

The **Heritage Property Conservation Award** is presented to property owners who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the conservation, restoration and preservation of our built heritage.



In 2019 this was awarded to the owners of 1379 Concession 6, West Flamborough.

The **Heritage Property Developer Award** is given to property developers who conserve, restore and preserve built heritage. In 2019, this was awarded to Ralph Naccarato for his purchase and restoration of multiple heritage properties in the Waterdown area. One of these properties is the former Weeks Block, on the southwest corner of Dundas Street Mill Streets.



Nominations were also submitted to Dawn Victoria Homes for their preservation of the Crooker House at 299 Dundas St. E, and The Teahouse at 297 Dundas St. E.



The **Adaptive Reuse of a Heritage Property Award** is presented to owners who have preserved/restored the integrity of a heritage property and adapted it for a different use. In 2018 this was awarded to the Woolcott Group as they added on to the Designated Heritage home at 493 Dundas St. E. and adapted for their use as a real estate office.



Local historian, history teacher and author Nathan Tidridge was awarded the **Education in Heritage Award** for his role in educating people on the conservation of our tangible and intangible heritage.



The **Heritage Group/Society Award** was presented to the Waterdown Mill Street Heritage District Committee in 2018. Headed by Andy McLaren this group is comprised of property owners in the Heritage District who want to preserve the character of the area, create awareness of local heritage, and be a community liaison for heritage matters. They have a website at waterdownmillstreetheritage.ca which is worth checking out.

There are also Sustainable Design in Heritage Awards for owners who introduce energy conservation measures to heritage properties, and Making Heritage Accessible Awards for those making a heritage property accessible for all citizens. This award came to Memorial Hall in 2018.



**The Flamborough
Heritage Society**

P.O. Box 1044
163 Dundas Street E.
Waterdown, ON L0R 2H0

Phone: 905-540-5161

Society E-Mail:

society@FlamboroughHistory.com

Archives E-mail:

archives@FlamboroughHistory.com

Website: FlamboroughHistory.com



Facebook: @flamboroughhistory

Instagram: @flamborougharchives

Twitter: @FlamboroHistory

YouTube: Flamborough Archives &
Heritage Society

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Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks to everyone who purchased Nathan Tidridge's new book—we sold out of the first order of 100 books! More are on order, so don't miss out.

We are excited to host our first virtual Trivia night on Sunday February 20th at 8:00 pm. If you haven't already done so, you can register through our website. It should be a lot of fun.

We are slowly growing our membership but we are always looking for more volunteers for our Board, our committees and the Archives. Please think about helping us out.

As restrictions ease, our archives will begin to open up for more hours. Please watch for changes which will be posted on the website and our social media platforms.

Happy Family Day and Heritage Week.

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/>