

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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March Zoom Meeting

Elizabeth Simcoe 1762-1860

This month we welcome Chris Mallion-Moore as our speaker. Chris was the Local History librarian for the Burlington Public Library, and became fascinated with Halton tales of old. Residing in Hamilton, Chris also has maternal Loyalist family history in the area dating back to the late 1700's. Straddling both municipalities, Chris wanted to research, write about and celebrate the histories of both places.



This presentation tells us the story of Elizabeth Simcoe, focusing on her journey from

England to Upper and Lower Canada in the company of her husband, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, John Graves Simcoe in the years 1791 to 1796. The diary she kept and illustrated provides a valuable impression of life in early Colonial Ontario and Quebec.

ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday March 30, 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.

HMHC AWARD

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

We are grateful recipients of the HMHC Heritage Group, Society or Specialty Team Award, which recognizes the efforts of a heritage group, society or specialty team who has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the conservation of Hamilton's heritage.

Each year the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee presents the HMHC Heritage Recognition Awards. Founded in 2007, these awards celebrate the significant contributions of property owners, educators, developers and volunteers



in the conservation of Hamilton's heritage.



Congratulations to all recipients of Awards this year!

The Canadian Homefront: Waterdown

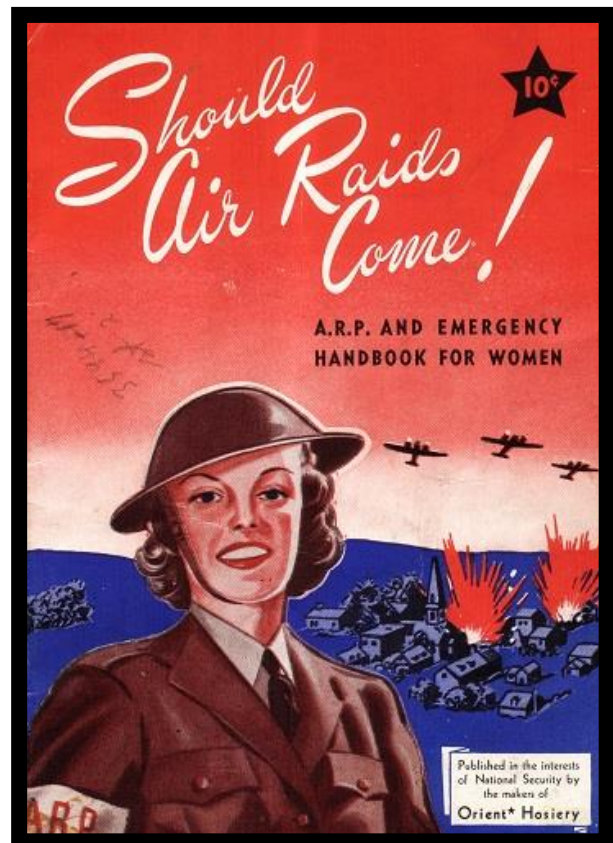
Part 5 — The ARP in Flamborough 1942-3

Heritage Paper # 302

Concern over enemy attacks was not just restricted to the warfront or European allies; fear of an enemy attack right in Flamborough was a major concern for the government and local councils. Many security organizations and groups were formed in case of invasion, gas attacks, or bombing, including the Civilian Defence's (CDC) Air Raid Precaution (ARP) unit in Flamborough, who were trained in all methods of firefighting and resuscitation. Parts of East Flamborough and Waterdown were deemed potential targets and needed to be protected at all costs. The ARP's work within Flamborough, especially blackout tests, was an example of the complete mobilization of the Homefront and Canada's precautions and preparations in case the war came to North America.

Enemy bombing and attacks were a major concern for Canada, especially considering their benefit to the British Empire. Before the start of the war in February 1939, an article was published within The Waterdown Review stating Canada would be a logical target if a European nation wanted to flex its power over Britain. These concerns only continued to escalate once the war was declared later that year. Government insurance in case of war damage to property was issued in 1942 with limited free compensation or another plan that was available for moderate rates. Invasion of German U-Boats occurred in the Saint Lawrence River, disrupting Canadian shipping to Britain and taking hundreds of lives. If the Germans made it to North America by U-Boat, the public became concerned the next attacks would be by air, especially considering airplane developments allowing them to travel farther distances and aircraft carriers. Public panic also escalated with the attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941. Local groups and organizations were created to combat concern and to

prepare for the worst outcome. The Home Guard was formed in early September 1940 with the final meeting being March 21st, 1944 to train those who did not go overseas to defend their land and community. The military unit was instructed by First World War Veteran Lieutenant Colonel Sawell. While the Home Guards were preparing to defend their community, the ARP was formed in case of an attack to provide relief and aid to those injured and buildings destroyed from bombing.



Reminding women that the enemy "has no consideration for the safety of civilians," this booklet (sponsored by Orient Beauti-Skin Hosiery) provided instruction on how to keep the family and home safe against enemy air attack - including advice on what to wear when dealing with bomb damage in the neighbourhood. Sourced from Wartime Canada.

In 1942, the federal government declared part of East Flamborough and Waterdown vulnerable to enemy attack with the Provincial CDC promising to organize an ARP unit. Both the East Flamborough and Waterdown councils met at the end of January to discuss the election of controllers. Major Hendrie was



the chairman, Roy Wilkinson vice-chairman, and GS McRae secretary. In 1943, Joseph Berneske, Fred Burjaw, and Mrs Robert Williamson took over the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary jobs for the Waterdown division. The district was split into three divisions in 1943 and included Maplehurst, which was led by R Todd, and Fairfield with GS Dunkin as chairman. The first meeting of the ARP was on March 3rd, 1942 at Memorial Hall where the outline of the ARP goals, the fears of invasion, and the need for assistance was discussed. Each controller spoke, including R Barnes the Chief Warden, Dr Hopper the Medical Controller, Geo T Evans the Utilities Controller, W Carson the controller of fire, JF Griffin who oversaw transportation, and Col. Sawell the controller of police. Volunteers were plentiful and training, from medical to drills, became a public spectacle with The Waterdown Review even telling parents to make sure their children stay out of the way. By April 1942, it was projected that two hundred men and women would be enrolled. The ARP was also given various tasks around town including a local census in 1942 to procure knowledge about each household and its members and in 1943 several CDC police were sworn in as constables till the end of the year to uphold village bylaws. The CDC and ARP became ingrained into the daily lives of the inhabitants of Flamborough. In February 1942, the provincial and federal governments cooperated in the installation of sirens in

town in preparation for the ARP's next course of action.

Blackouts were essential to safety during an air raid and to fully mobilize the public, the community would need to know what to do. In the July 9th, 1942 edition of The Waterdown Review, the first coordinated test outside of ARP training was ordered by the Attorney General of Ontario. Unfortunately, the tests would run into an issue before as a result of manufacturing errors with the sirens, leading to the fire siren, church bells, and factory whistles being utilized. The first blackout test was July 23rd, 1942 and members of the community were given a series of instructions, including keeping off the street, no using the telephone, pulling to the side of the road and turning off the car if stuck on the streets, and extinguishing all streetlights. Those who did not turn off their lights or, in the case of some Waterdown youths during the October 1942 blackout, caused any trouble by refusing to follow any orders could be given a formal warning or prosecuted. Tests could either be planned or a surprise, and took place in the daytime or the evening. Throughout 1942 and 1943, the tests continued with new adjustments and recommendations. In the November 26, 1942 edition of The Waterdown Review, an article criticized people who simply turn off their lights and recommended buying cheap tar or paper to cover windows. No stone was left unturned and while

Continued next page

this was excellent practice for the community, this was vital preparation for the ARP, who had to man their stations and take care of any 'incidents' that occurred to ensure efficient mobilization.

**Know How To--
Protect Your Life
and Home From GAS**

PUBLIC MEETINGS
Maplehurst School
Monday, Feb. 1st.
AND
Monday, Feb. 8th.
At 8 p.m.

SPEAKER -- DR. W. BEADMAN,
OF HAMILTON, Specialist on this Subject,
having just returned from a Course on G A S,
arranged by the Federal Government.
DEMONSTRATIONS and ILLUSTRATED ADDRESS
Every Adult Person in Nova Scotia has been given
a Gas Mask, so it is urgent that one or more persons
from each Household Hear Dr. Deadman.

These Meetings are being sponsored by your
Local A.R.P. Organization.

SILVER COLLECTION

GOD SAVE THE KING

Flamborough Review, January 28 1943

The ARP and CDC's work existed outside of air raid and medical preparation as well as maintaining law and order; the groups also had to ensure they had proper funding, support from the community, and were educational. In July 1943, the Waterdown ARP organized a drumhead service on a Sunday with the parade going from the Flamboro St past the Reviewing stand where the salute will be taken. An event like this

captures the public's attention and maintains public opinion through religious incorporation in the event. Outside of parades and services, the CDC also staged frolics and masquerades in Memorial Hall, twice in March and October 1943. These events included a draw for prizes, such as a challenger watch and a war saving certificate and were to raise money for the local CDC. While maintaining public opinion through organizing fun affairs, the CDC was able to keep running as a result. The ARP also had to inform the public in case of an attack and chose multiple methods of sharing these details, including a speaker on protecting oneself from gas attacks and films. Quite like today, movies were a great and accessible way of spreading propaganda and information. At Memorial Hall on June 23rd, 1942, the ARP showed clips from the London Blitz and had a collection for the expenses. This was not the only air-themed movie night run by the ARP. On February 23rd, 1943, the ARP secured UXB 1350, which detailed the story of fighting in the air. Movies were also chosen for a more general war experience or for government propaganda, including the December 7th, 1942 showing of "Stop that Fire", "Women at War", and "War and Order" at the Maplehurst school. The ARP ensured public support and funds through events that anyone in the community could participate in and gain something, be it a prize or information, from the occasion.



A collection of ARP artifacts on display at the Mackin House Museum in Coquitlam, BC. Sourced from Coquitlam Heritage at Mackin House.

With the turn of the war in 1943 and the lowering concern about an invasion, the CDC and ARP were rumoured to be shut down. In late August 1943, General Ross, the Director of Civilian Defence in Canada, dropped by the region to meet with officials. General Ross assured the group the CDC was needed more than ever as it was an integral part of national defence. Unfortunately, in November 1943, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King announced all members of the CDC will be excused from further service except for coastal areas. While preparations were made by local members of the ARP for orders of dismissal, the unified fire service would still be maintained. However, it was determined at the end of 1943 that the CDC could continue as a municipally led organization with Berneske as chairman, but with no cost to the Council. As the war raged on, the ARP and other volunteer groups continued as well.

The CDC and ARP were an essential part of Flamborough's war experience and reflected the massive scale of mobilization in Canada through various national security measures and the spread of information and propaganda in accessible formats. The dedication put forward by the volunteers was an example of their patriotism and desire to protect their community at all costs. The ARP was more than doing one's part for their country; it was ensuring the protection of identity and history that is still present today.

**Special Film
To Be
Shown Here**

—v—

On Tuesday night (February 23) in the Memorial Hall Waterdown there will be shown Films secured by the ARP, to which all members of the Local ARP Services are expected to attend as well as the general public

The ARP Committee have been fortunate in securing these films run for one hour and a half, entitled UXB 1350 The films tell a graphic story of fighting war from the air

A silver collection will be taken to defray expenses

Flamborough Review, February 18 1943

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

Kim Hirst and Meghan Martin have brought another exhibit together—the past “Dressing for the Occasion” was successful what with the vaccination clinics taking place in the Waterdown branch of the Hamilton Public Library. For the next few months the featured exhibit will be “Home, Work, Play – Life in Early 20th Century Flamborough”. See page 9 for some more information. We were also given the opportunity to move our smaller display cabinet from the Archives to the library's program room, which should grab the eyes of passerby to explore not only the latest display but stop in and visit the Archives.

We love sharing what's going on and there certainly is a lot! Social media posts, website up-

dates, virtual trivia, book sales, heritage paper transcription, displays, and research being done behind the scenes. Readers must think we have an army of volunteers working in the background, but most of these tasks are being done by a handful of dedicated volunteers. Have some spare time? Know of someone that might be interested in helping? We have a myriad of tasks that might interest you!

Some of those tasks 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 happy to be hosting a co-op student from Waterdown District High School. Max has been doing a few different tasks, including cataloguing negatives, updating the business catalogue with newspaper clippings, and exploring and printing copies of the Review on loan from the Central branch Library and Archives.

Our new cataloguing system is live and we're getting into the swing of it, but items can now be catalogued in mere minutes in some instances. Afterwards, the records are easily searchable and accessible. We're now able to easily print reports and explore our acquisitions as they're catalogued. Our ever-busy archivist, Lyn Lusted,

is thrilled with the new streamlined system, which will save hours of cataloguing time.



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

As winter slowly gives way to spring, we hope our members had time to enjoy the winter weather in between clearing snow!

Whomever sent some post to William Henry Prudham in 1890 had a bit of fun with it—seems the two folks depicted at a skating rink aren't having the best of luck staying upright.



Besides the comical caricature, information about William can be gleaned from the vertical file the envelope was found in. William was born in 1874, making him 16 years old when he received this in the mail. He lived as a farmer, being a member of the North Wentworth Farmers' Institute, and married Mary Elizabeth Lyons in 1911. William was also a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Over his lifetime William would have witnessed a multitude of changes, conflicts, and events, he died in 1976 just a month shy of his 102nd birthday.

The envelope also features an example of Scott #41, the 3 cent bright vermillion "Small Queen" definitive of 1888. A handstamp 7-ring target cancels the stamp, and the postal marking still features "C.W", or Canada West, despite it being the province of Ontario since 1867.

OUR PRESENCE ONLINE

We continue to grow our following on our Instagram account. We're up to 453 followers! What was recently popular? This postcard of Dundas Street in Waterdown, looking east up Vinegar Hill, gained 34 reactions and reached nearly 300 people. It was a way for our followers to reminisce about the way things used to be. Dundas Street continues to change to this day as Waterdown grows.



Facebook was a popular spot for the month of February, with three of our posts reaching well over ten thousand people each. The Dundas Street postcard performed splendidly, but by the number of people reached our post regarding rotary phones coming to Waterdown was the leader. The photo of children learning how to dial a phone reached just over 17,000 people, and gained 264 reactions.

We've started sharing some more lighthearted content on Fridays. If you haven't already, Give our page a 'like' so you can stay up to date!

Our February speaker Rob Green requested his presentation not to be uploaded to our YouTube channel, but sit tight for content he will be submitting.

Our first Virtual Trivia night was great fun, and the trivia also featured at the Waterdown Rotary Club's monthly meeting. Stay tuned for more!

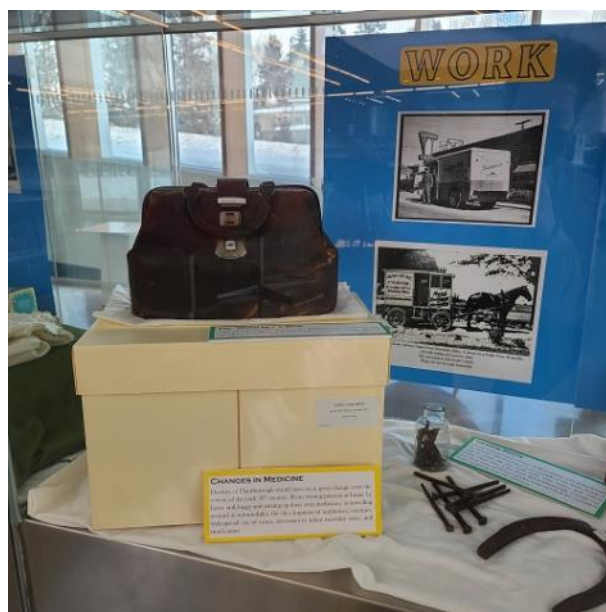


Our website continues it's role as our "home base" for history. The transcribed Heritage Papers that are published every Friday continue to highlight Flamborough's history. The recent "Letters of Alma Reid", allowed people to discover life from the perspective of a teen at the turn of the 20th century.

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!

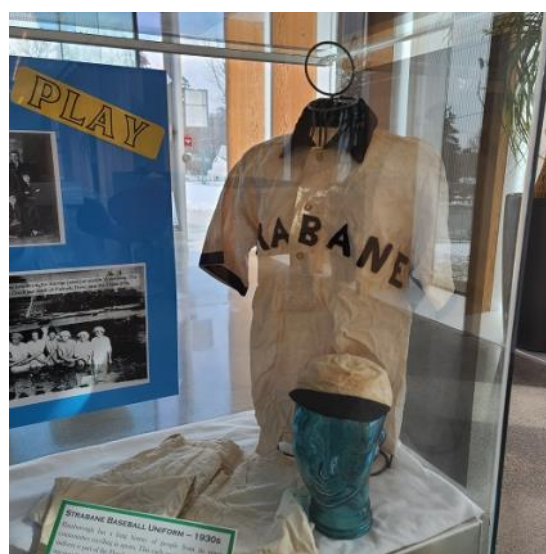
TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES

The new display being featured in the Waterdown library displays information, artifacts, and photographs from the Archives' extensive collection. One of the artifacts is a recently donated doctor's bag from Dr. Woolsey. The Woolsey family were settlers of Mountsberg for over a century, and Dr. Woolsey returned to Mountsberg before his death.



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

The theme for the next few months is "Home, Work, Play — Life in Early 20th Century Flamborough. While much of how people spent their time at home, work, and entertaining themselves may seem alien to the modern eye, there are threads of familiarity that are unveiled while exploring the exhibit. If you're in the area, we encourage you to visit!



THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

Women in Flamborough—Dr. Mary Green

The early settlers of Flamborough struggled to make a life in this new land. While the men cleared the land, fought in the wars and did much of the heavy work, the women made life livable.

They, along with their children, were the ones keeping livestock safe from wolves and bears. They planted the crops, ground the corn into flour, spun and wove the flax and wool into clothing and grew the orchards and kitchen gardens.

Along with the daily chores they often filled other roles. Some of the women became teachers in order to educate their children before proper schools were built. In *The Pioneers of Beverly* by John A. Cornell, a letter from R.M. Cope reveals the skills of a Mrs. Holcomb who was persuaded to teach the school: 'She had the most executive ability of any person I ever saw, man or woman. If a boy six feet high transgressed the rules, she would talk to him so that in five minutes he would feel like sinking through a hole in the floor and pulling the hole in after him.' Mrs. Holcomb taught in a large room in her house which had been used as a summer kitchen.



John Green's House, The Forty

John and Mary Green settled with their family in the Niagara Peninsula during 1789. They came from New Jersey where John had owned a tavern. His petition for land as a loyalist echoes that of so many others: *'That your petitioner in time of the late rebellion in America was attached to the British Government which he served by joining the Royal Standard in the State of New Jersey (now of the United States of America) that he come to this province in the year 1789 where he has resided ever since—Therefore prays your Excellency may be pleased to order his name to be inserted on the List of Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire—And in duty bound your Petitioner will ever pray.'*

Their house was west of Forty Mile Creek and they quickly became a prominent family. In 1790 the first meeting of the Inhabitants of Township No. 6 was held at the Green home, and John Green was elected Overseer of Roads. In addition to operating a saw mill and a grist mill, he was also a surveyor and a road builder.

It was in this last capacity that the Greens became acquainted with Upper Canada's first Governor, Lieutenant John Grave Simcoe and his wife, Elizabeth. John Green accompanied Gov. Simcoe on a five-week mid-winter trip from Niagara to Detroit. Mrs. Simcoe made her first visit to the Green's in 1794 and the couples became good friends.

Mrs. Simcoe wrote of them several times in her diary.

Wed 8th: We set off at seven, but the men paddled as idly as they did yesterday, so we did not reach the Forth-Mile Creek (nine miles) until twelve o'clock. I was out of patience that the canoe was so disgraced. We encamped on the Point, where the boards are piled that are brought from the saw mill: the plank afforded a shed for the tent. We walked to John Green's, and as a room was prepared for us we slept there, but dined at the

Point. They eat pumpkin pie, which, with lemon juice, was very good.

Thurs.9, 1796: I gathered some wild flax at Green's. in his garden he has quantities of melons near the river and last year cut 800 pumpkins from three-quarters of an acre of land; they are esteemed excellent food for cows, making the butter particularly good. We dined today at our encampment and slept at the Green's.

Fr. 10th: - A very wet night. Mrs. Green went as a guide to conduct us on horseback across the mountain. Green has lately, at the Governor's request and expense, cut a road thro' the wood, making it possible for me to ride.

In 1796 John Green relocated his family, purchasing the 200 acres in West Flamborough. He erected a mill midway between his house and Bullock's Corners and the area was eventually named Greensville, after John Green.

Out of necessity, most women had some medical knowledge, able to bind wounds, use plants and herbs for various ailments and fevers but it was rare for a woman to have proper medical training.

In West Flamborough, Mary Green became well known as the local doctor, travelling through the area using the name Dr. Davis Green, Davis being her maiden name .

Mary Davis Green was of Welsh descent and is believed to have been born in 1742. It is unknown when she emigrated to the United States. She is described as being licensed to practice medicine and surgery but there is no reference to how she obtained that knowledge. She had her own favourite horse that she rode to visit the sick and the needy.

Adam Green, a brother of John Green, settled with his wife and ten children near Stoney Creek. Mrs. Simcoe describes a visit to his home:

I gathered a great many plants. Green gave them all names and I stopped at his house to write them down. She goes on to describe ginseng, sarsaparilla, consumption vine, poison vine, madder, toothache vine, sore throat weed, dragon's blood, Ivy blade, enchanter's night shade, dewberries and wild turnips. We rode back to 'King's Head' to dinner.



One wonders if his knowledge of plants and herbs came from Mary Green, or did he teach her?

Mary Green died in her sleep in 1829 and John Green died in 1830. Although their graves are not marked, they are believed to be buried in the cemetery at Christ Church Anglican church in Bullock's Corners.

Sources at Flamborough Archives:

- John Green Family vertical file
- *The Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe; with notes and a biography by J. Ross Robertson. Toronto. 1911*
- *Annals of the Forty No. 5. Grimsby Historical Society*
- *West Flamborough Township Centennial 1850–1950.*
- *Pioneers of Beverly. John Cornell*

**The Flamborough
Heritage Society**

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YouTube: Flamborough Archives &
Heritage Society

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Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We continue to share and highlight interesting parts of Flamborough's history, whether through social media, archival research, our online blog, or in-person displays at the Waterdown Library. All of our projects involve time—whether it be hours of research or placing items in display cases to tangibly highlight history.

We greatly appreciate our members and hope that they also appreciate what the Heritage Society is doing to preserve and share Flamborough's history. We hope that those reading our newsletter could volunteer or suggest others that would be of benefit to the Society and Archives.

We were happy to host our first Trivia Night, and hope to do more in future. If you have any suggestions or insight as to how the Flamborough Heritage Society could further serve the many communities of Flamborough, be sure to contact us.

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/>