



FLAMBOROUGH HERITAGE SOCIETY



January 2023

# Heritage Happenings

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## January's Monthly Meeting

*The Flamborough Heritage Society will feature a presentation on the Renovation of the East Flamborough Township Hall by Nathan Brown, January 25th at 8:00 PM, in person at the Waterdown Legion.*

Built in 1857, the Flamborough Township Hall was at the centre of community administration, and has had numerous uses over its history. In 2016 the City of Hamilton sold the property to three local business owners (and brothers) Nicholas, Nathan and Andrew Brown. They renovated the heritage-designated building

with a focus on the building's history in the community and with a desire to restore its position as a centre of administration and knowledge.

Nathan Brown, partner at Brown Financial Security Inc. will present photos and stories about the renovation project.



### Heritage Paper #308

Third in the series of "Conspiracy, Controversy, and Celebrity: A Rich History of Flamborough". Explore Secret Societies and Small Towns with 'The History of the Waterdown Lodge.'

### Found in the Fonds

Some pretty amazing stuff is unearthed in the Archives during research projects or when cataloguing items.

What's in the spotlight this month?

### Golden Anniversary

The Waterdown - East Flamborough Heritage Society has been active in the community for 50 years.

How will we celebrate?

EXPLORE FROM PAGE 2 >>

SEE IT NOW ON PAGE 5 >>

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# HERITAGE PAPER

## Secret Societies and Small Towns: The History of the Waterdown Lodge

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Tess Moffat, Archives Summer Student

*Over the next several issues we will be publishing papers under the theme “Conspiracy, Controversy, and Celebrity: A Rich History of Flamborough”*

One of the most well-known secret societies is the freemasons, a fraternal order that had its beginnings in the Middle Ages. While initially a guild for stone masons, a decline in cathedral building led to a shift in the core values of the society. The Freemasons embodied elements from the Enlightenment, an intellectual and philosophical movement that occurred during the late 1600s through the eighteenth century; they pursued great knowledge, showed religious tolerance, and encouraged philanthropic endeavours amongst members.

This organization did not end with the Enlightenment. Instead, it traveled across the ocean to the colonies, establishing roots in small and large Canadian communities alike. In the case of Flamborough, the Waterdown Lodge was formed in 1877, becoming involved with important local people and establishments. Its journey was a complicated one that demonstrated survival



*Canadian winters helped the Waterdown Lodge get a foothold in the area. Pictured is the Kush family farmhouse that survived the ‘Big Snow’ of December 1944. Painted by George Kush.*

depended on one key factor that has haunted the earliest masons: adaption. Through understanding the need to change, the Waterdown Lodge was able to establish its roots in Flamborough and later extend its influence over other communities.

The beginnings of the Waterdown Lodge were a direct result of one of the most unpredictable aspects of this country:

Canadian winters. It was noted by several Flamborough locals that attendance to more urban lodges dropped in the winter. The road conditions were horrific, and the weather was bitter, making it a nightmare journey for both travelers and their horses. D.H. Hunter, James McMonies, Thomas Attridge, H. Spence, W.H. Crooker, John Baker, Edward Brown, Joseph



Smye, and Samuel Green all saw the need for a change and formed the Waterdown Lodge. The first meeting was held on March 27th, 1877. These meetings often occurred in the Bell House, formerly located where Memorial Hall currently resides, and McGregor's Hall, which was the second floor of Doctor McGregor's drugstore on Dundas Street East before it burned down. Through aid from the Burlington Lodge, the Freemasons of Waterdown were able to furnish a small room where Memorial Hall currently sits and by June 1877, they were able to purchase a carpet for \$72.12. The Waterdown Lodge was instituted under Charter by Grand Master James Kirkpatrick Kerr on September 13th, 1877. D.H. Hunter became the Master of Worship, James McMonies the Senior Warden, and Thomas Attridge the Junior Warden. The early membership of the Waterdown Lodge had some rather large names in the context of Flamborough. D.H. Hunter was the principal at Waterdown District High School. As well, Doctor McGregor was a well-known Waterdown physician who was actively involved in the community through politics and his practice. On November 20th of that year, the Right Worshipful Hugh Murray D.D.G.M. conse-

crated the lodge. Membership numbers were rising, and this was only the beginning for the Freemasons of Flamborough.

However, in twenty years, there was a moment of decline for the Waterdown Lodge. Blame was being placed on several factors, including the importance of Flamborough as a travel route and the rise of hotels. As a result of these buildings, it was believed that members were no longer wanting to pay their dues or attend meetings when instead they could waste their money at the bar. According to the Flamborough Review, men would come home from a 'meeting' completely drunk and would be greeted with an angry and frustrated spouse who placed the blame on the lodge. As a result, many members felt pressured by their wives to stay home. Another substantial issue was the hideous weather and how it affected people outside of Waterdown. Not everyone within Flamborough could make the journey in the dead of winter, and numbers were dwindling fast with some meetings only being attended by a handful. Members were also being suspended frequently for not paying their dues, which only would become a more substantial issue as the years progressed. In 1895, an economic



*Dr. J. O. McGregor wearing  
Masonic regalia.*

slump hit prospective and old members hard, making it difficult to find the money for dues. The economy would turn for the better, but the Lodge needed to address one of the earliest problems, which was how many Flamborough members struggled to come to meetings in Waterdown. It was determined that a more central location was needed, especially to encourage more applicants.

In 1896, the Freemasons of Flamborough signed a ninety-nine-year lease for the Old Hall in Millgrove, occupying the second story. The building was shared with several organizations, but the Waterdown Lodge was able to obtain exclusive



*An example of a Masonic voting box, used to cast secret votes for membership. Black balls represented 'no' votes. Sourced from Etsy.*

rights to the Old Hall in 1924. The Waterdown Lodge adjusted well to their new location, continuing their traditions in Millgrove. Since 1896, church services were held in Millgrove Church; members would meet and march from the Lodge to the church. The minister, who commonly was a member of the Lodge, would prepare a special message for the Freemasons and this would often be followed by, on occasion, a guest speaker and the Millgrove choir. On January 27th, 1897, the building was dedicated by Grand Master W. Gibson, Esq., at the emergent meeting. While the first year was slower, it was not until 1898 that applications began to pick up. By 1902, the Waterdown Lodge was given the distinction of being a "Banner Lodge" as they had

twelve initiations and contributed about two dollars per member for benevolence. From 1904 to 1906, initiates struggled against the greatest obstacle of all: the ballot box. It was realized that investigating committees were submitting excellent reports on prospective members, but when the ballot was passed, there would be a black ball. This was determined to be the actions of one person, and it was voted that two blackballs would be needed to reject a candidate. After this motion was passed, membership began to climb, reaching two hundred by 1927. This success was commemorated by installing an organ. With the increasing membership, it was soon realized the relatively small building was not built for larger crowds. During

meetings, Deacons would scurry to shore up the floor with timber to ensure the attendants would not end up on the first floor. The Waterdown Lodge needed another change.

In 1946, a committee was appointed to look for a new site for the Lodge. In 1947, the land on highway six, which the building currently resides, was bought and construction commenced soon after. The building is missing a key component that might cause the average person to be a bit perplexed; the windows on the front of the Lodge are bricked up. While this might be a head scratcher for some, one should take into consideration the Freemasons, while a well-known organization, are a secret society that values their privacy as many secret societies tend to do. While not every masonic lodge will exclude windows from their meeting locations and will include curtains, this prevents non-masons from peering into and observing meetings. On January 23rd, 1951, the building was dedicated. Unfortunately for those commencing the ceremony, the meeting was so well attended they could barely move about. This renewed interest in the Lodge and membership skyrocketed to 298 by 1957. Due to this success, the Waterdown Lodge was able to find greater

funds. After campaigning for contributions to the building event, another ceremony was carried out in December 1958 that involved the symbolic burning of the mortgage. As well, in 1960, a new Wurlitzer organ was dedicated to the Freemasons who perished in the two World Wars. The Waterdown Lodge had finally found their hopefully permanent home.

As membership continued to grow, the radius of influence also expanded. Members of the Waterdown Lodge were not solely from Flamborough; people from all over Dundas, Hamilton, and Burlington belonged to the Lodge. The members diversi-

ty could also be reflected in the Lodge's annual church service. While church services had commonly been associated with the Millgrove Church, services had been held in different locations, such as Rock Chapel, Waterdown, Freelon, and Strabane. This depended on who the leader of the Lodge was and which church they associated with. The Waterdown Lodge was able to take root in Flamborough, but over the years, the Lodge has been able to have greater influence outside of township borders.

By adapting to new challenges, the Waterdown Lodge was able to establish itself in the

community, later extending its influence outside of Flamborough. In five years, the Freemasons of Waterdown should be celebrating their 150th anniversary. The history of the Waterdown Lodge has been turbulent, but the Lodge has continued to push through the storm. Freemasonry and its' followers have survived countless travesties and changes in history and society, adapting repeatedly to each new challenge and braving the great unknowns. If the Masonic Order has lasted four hundred years of turmoil, what is another four hundred more?

## *FOUND IN THE FONDS*

It's often interesting to see how much influence one person has in a community, especially as most of the time that community must come together as a whole to make change happen.

While browsing our large newspaper collection an article was found entitled "TO CLOSE 'AMUSEMENT PARLOUR'" in the December 22, 1975 edition of the Flamborough Review.

Council voted to close the operation that had recently opened at the corner of Dundas and Hamilton Streets, prompted

by a letter from the principal of Waterdown District High School at the time, L.J. White.

Mr. White wrote in his letter: "It is with some dismay that I witness the beginnings of an amusement parlour, across the road from the high school. The location of the village plaza is unfortunate in many respects [...] Another temptation for students to "skip" classes and waste money is inadvisable and undesirable from my viewpoint."

It's not fully understood from the article what was in the

parlour, but the editor presumes it was coin-operated arcade games.



A California arcade in 1982  
*Getty Images*



## Current Projects

**All of our work is accomplished through our volunteers. You may wonder what exactly volunteers are doing - we're glad you asked!**

This year we celebrate our golden anniversary, after fifty years preserving and sharing the history of Flamborough. What started 50 years ago after the merging of three townships continues today, despite having to adapt to current climates and changing communities. This was especially true during the past few years, when quarantine and distance from public meetings posed new challenges to the society.

Our board of directors hopes for a great 50th year, and have proposed themed trivia nights, a strawberry social, society t-shirts, and a publication based on the human history of Flamborough.

We hope that as we celebrate 50 years we can also welcome newcomers to Flamborough in exploring how our past influenced our present day, and the interesting and often surprising stories that are the heartbeat of our heritage.



*"Help one another. There's no time like the present, and no present like the time."*

— James Durst



If you love Flamborough, history or research, there are always volunteer opportunities with the society. Build on an existing personal passion or discover a new one.

Our display committee is currently planning exhibits for 2023, to be featured in the Waterdown branch of the Hamilton Public Library. They hope one day in future to expand

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

*Our volunteers' love of local history, time spent and dedication to helping the Society is always appreciated. Here we highlight just a small sampling of their work.*



the reach of the society's displays into other locations outside Waterdown. We are extremely thankful for the opportunity to display exhibits within the Waterdown library.

Our former archivist Sylvia Wray has been assisting in the archives, clipping articles from old newspapers for our vertical files. Many thanks to Sylvia as she does this on top of her current research projects.

Kim Hirst is corresponding with a senior archaeolo-

gist with the goal of having a Stage 3 collection transferred to the society. The collection, recovered from a site located at the Wetland Trail north of Parkside Drive, contains lithic objects along with a few examples of settler artifacts.

We thank all our volunteers that come in on a regular basis to help in the archives, as well as those that find spare moments to help the Flamborough Heritage Society.

## CONTRIBUTING TO OUR CAUSE

## MEMBERSHIP

*It takes a lot to preserve history, and your membership is a big part of that. Thanks to all our members!*

Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership with us. Membership runs from September to August annually, and helps support us by funding our operating costs. Members receive this newsletter as well as priority at our monthly meetings, back live in person after being held by Zoom for the last few years.

We think society membership is pretty amazing - we encourage all our current members to recruit more people, whether you gift a membership to someone special or just let your friends, family, and colleagues know about us.

- 1 Members have priority, being sent the latest news first
- 2 Your membership helps support Heritage Society projects
- 3 Be part of one of the most active Heritage Societies in Ontario

*Photograph Exhibition at Grace Church, Sept. 1993*



We receive a lot of donations of heritage documents, photographs, and items throughout the year. If you have something you think we may like, please let us know! You don't have to permanently donate an item - pieces can be on loan to the Archives for as long as you feel comfortable or copied and returned to you.

Our most recent expenses include backgrounds for our display cabinets, a projector used in our monthly meetings, and we're planning on installing a service club sign at the

## DONATIONS

east entrance of Waterdown to bring attention to the society.

We're still raising funds for our shelf system update - space is currently at a premium in the Archives. While memberships, book sales and grants help us with our day-to-day expenditures, donations from members like you greatly support our mission.

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.



# OUR PRESENCE ONLINE

*We encourage all of our members to follow, subscribe, share and overall enjoy our online activities. See you all online!*

## OUR FOLLOWERS



**3,586**



**528**



**66**



**26**

We're constantly posting new content - tap follow and drop a comment to say hi!



November and December blog posts included information gleaned from newspaper articles.

## E-Commerce

The holiday season always fuels our publication sales, and this year was no different. We especially saw support through purchases of our latest republications, "...from West Flamborough's Storied Past" and "The Story of Strabane".

Once again, and as always:

*Thanks to all for your support!*

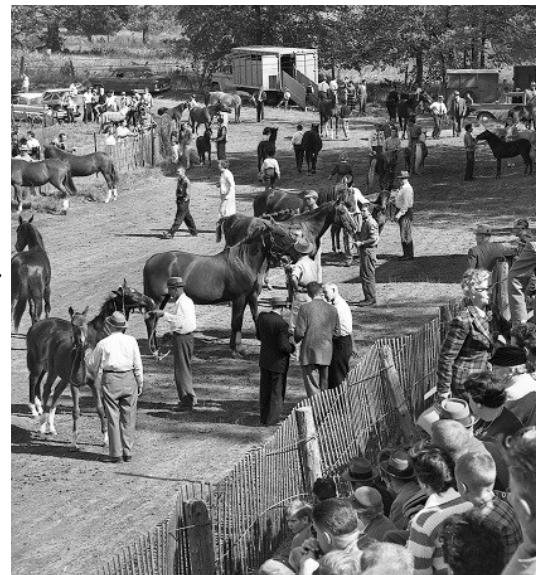
Winter is a season to slow down and take a breather, throughout the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

We were able to put two of our previous publications back in print, and encouraged all to 'Give Heritage for the Holidays.'

Our social media cooled down after high activity prior to the Memorial Hall 100 event. Despite

this, many of our followers enjoyed the posts we shared. This included a shot of the 1960 Rockton's World Fair, a Pip Allen photo of the corner of Hamilton and Dundas Streets, and a photo of the Thompson's Block in Lynden as it burned in 1981.

Don't be a stranger - be sure to share with us or our content wherever we are online.





# Treasures from the Archives



**Baking implements** from Notre Dame Academy

**We're sure there were a lot of recipes** being brought out for the holiday season, whether Grandma's famous shortbread recipe or one for a tender roast.

The Flamborough Archives has a collection of cookbooks, the oldest being 'The Home Cook Book' from 1875 that was featured in our Summer 2022 newsletter. As we mentioned in that article, it was Canada's first community cookbook.

There are some recipes that stand the test of time, although the earliest recipe books assumed the reader would know the time and temperature to have dishes in the oven as they are not listed with the ingredients. Others seem foreign from a modern perspective, including vinegar pie and flour caudle.

These cookbooks were much more than a collection of recipes. They served as fundraisers

and historical accounts of the area. All showcased recipes from the kitchens of their community, with entries having the name of the contributor listed with the recipe.

At first, these cookbooks were mainly published by religious groups or churches in the area. Churches still publish cookbooks today, though modern adaptations include webpages and special categories for vegan and gluten free recipes. The editor especially enjoys reading through the back page of church cookbooks, where

'supper quantity cooking' can be found. Should you wish to make braised beef for 200, you'd need to procure 65 lbs. stew beef, 60 lbs. potatoes, Harvard beets, 40 lbs. turnips, 2 lbs. cheese and 36 pies. That would be quite the bill with today's grocery prices!


Church ladies weren't the only ones to publish cookbooks. Community groups would publish their own versions to raise money for projects.

The cookbooks also had advertisements within, a snapshot of local businesses at the time they were printed. As with many items in our collection, there is more value to these cookbooks than what we believe at first glance.



**Various cookbooks** from our collection

## ARCHIVES ACTIVITY - WINTER

	<b>VISITORS</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>CALLS</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>E-MESSAGES</b>	<b>57</b>
	<b>ITEMS CATALOGUED</b>	<b>211</b>
	<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>436</b>

# THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

## Col. Gordon Debenham Dailley

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Between 1978 and 2000 the former Town of Flamborough (now part of the City of Hamilton) designated 38 properties as being historically significant. Recently I was asked to check to see if all of these properties had a Heritage Plaque located on or near the property. One of the houses was known as 'The Dailley House'. It was very frustrating because the house could not be seen from the road so it wasn't possible to confirm the plaquing. A search on Google maps did not really show anything very clearly so it became a search to find out more about the building as there were no records in our Archives. While doing so, it became very evident that the history behind the owner at the time of the designation was perhaps even more interesting!

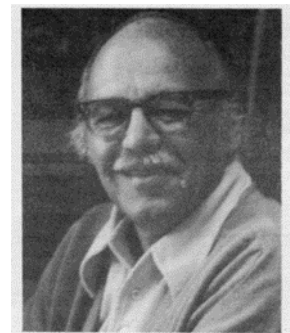
The designated property was a fieldstone farm house, located on 'Springfield Farm' located beside African Safari. Aside from knowing it was a 125 acre farm with a house dating from 1836, there was little infor-

mation about it. However, the reason for the purchase of the farm made for fascinating reading.

Colonel 'Don' Dailley wore many hats during his life. He was passionate about preserving endangered wildlife species, which was the main force behind his 'retirement project', African Lion Safari. During a visit to Scotland he learned of Shetland Sheep, a breed which was considered endangered by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust in England. After considerable back and forth discussions and red tape, he was able to import 5 Blue Grey ewes, 3 Black ewes, 9 Moorit ewes, 13 White ewes, 2 Grey rams, 1 Moorit Ram and 1 white ram which arrived in Canada on December 2, 1980. The land on his newly purchased farm was perfect for them and they thrived. In 1986 Tut and Linda Doane imported the first group of Shetland sheep into the United States, purchased from Col. Dailley. The Dailley flock is officially Flock #1 in the North American Shetland Sheep Regis-

try, and the breed is no longer considered endangered.

Shetland wool is considered to be one of the finest wools and is sought out by knitters and weavers. The flock was maintained by the family after his death in May 1989, but in June 2007 the Dailley flock was moved to Chassagne Farm near Puslinch, and they are cared for by shepherdess Carole Precious, Don Dailley's daughter-in-law.

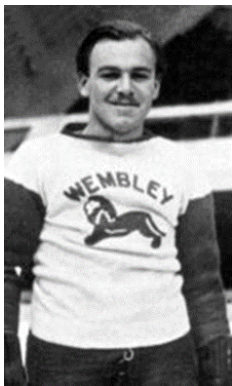


*Flamborough Review May 10 1989*

In February 2008, the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce honoured the legacy of Col. Dailley with its Lifetime Achievement Award, accepted by his son James and grandson Dan. The background information printed in the March 2008 edition of 'The Bottom Line' reveals a man of many talents and interests.



Gordon Debenham Dailley was born in Winnipeg July 24, 1911 to Wilfred Dailley and Katherine Debenham. He attended the University of Winnipeg and was active in sports, especially hockey. He moved to England in 1933 and played for the Grosvenor House Canadians, the Wembley Lions, and was captain of the English Olympic Ice Hockey team which won the gold medal at the 1936 Olympic Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. He was posthumously inducted into the British Ice Hockey Hall of Fame in 1993.



When WW II started he joined the Canadian Army. He later held a number of executive positions in Army Headquarters in Ottawa and on the United Nations Armistice Commission in Korea.

He was promoted to Colonel when he was assigned to Belgrade, Yugoslavia as Canadian Military Attaché. After return-

ing to Canada he was on the staff of the National Defense College in Kingston, and was then appointed Commander of Base Galetown, New Brunswick in 1960. He retired from the military in November 1964.

Col. Dailley's service to Canada covered a wide field, from the arts to international caring and co-operation. He was a Director of the New Brunswick Symphony and helped found the Atlantic Symphony. He was President of the United Nations Association in Ottawa and was on the National Council of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. He was a Director of Oxfam Canada and the Canadian Arts Council. In 1964 he took on the role of co-director of the New Brunswick Centennial Administration, and was a senior official with the Canadian Centennial Commission which planned Expo '67 in Montreal, work for which he was awarded a Centennial Medal.

His dream of a wildlife park began when Prince Phillip suggested he visit Lions of Longleat in England which had opened in 1966. It was the first drive-through safari park outside of Africa and was owned by Jimmy Chipperfield, who later became

a partner in African Lion Safari and Game Farm. Col. Dailley wanted to create something dedicated to the conservation of declining wildlife species. His search for a location led him to a seven-hundred acre property in Beverly Township near Rockton with seven small lakes, which had previously been a small recreational park. Located within an hours drive of several major cities, it was the perfect spot.

African Lion Safari opened to the public on August 22, 1969. Since then it has grown and added attractions and animals. Col. Dailley was a founding member of the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA), and Attractions Ontario. The park participates in the International Species Survival Plan for the African Elephant, white rhino and Cinerous vulture, and has won several awards for various breeding programs.

He had vision and courage and was truly a remarkable man.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The new year is upon us, and with it comes our 50th anniversary as the Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society. From humble beginnings and with many achievements throughout our history, the society has been able to adapt to serve a changing community while maintaining our original objectives.



The society is still very active in our community, whether through events, monthly meetings, displays, or online posts. Our archives, opened in October of 1991, continues to receive donations of materials tied to our heritage. So much so that we continue to actively pursue grants and funding for more storage space.

It is our membership and volunteers that have allowed us to remain a part of the community for this long. We look forward to continue learning from our past, seizing opportunities of the present, and driving toward future endeavours.

Chris Rivait, President

### AREA HERITAGE WEBSITES

The Ancaster Township Historical Society - [www.ancasterhistory.ca](http://www.ancasterhistory.ca)

The Burlington Historical Society - [www.burlingtonhistorical.ca](http://www.burlingtonhistorical.ca).

The Dundas Valley Historical Society - [www.dundashistory.ca](http://www.dundashistory.ca)

The Grimsby Historical Society - [Grimsby Historical Society](http://GrimsbyHistoricalSociety).

The Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society- [www.hamiltonheritage.ca](http://www.hamiltonheritage.ca)

The Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society -

[Head of the Lake Historical Society](http://HeadoftheLakeHistoricalSociety)

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of  
Canada, Hamilton Branch - [www.uel.com](http://www.uel.com)

The West Lincoln Historical Society - [www.wlhs.info](http://www.wlhs.info)

Waterdown Mill Street Heritage -

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

### THE FLAMBOROUGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1044

163 Dundas Street East

Waterdown, ON L0R 2H0

Phone: 905-540-5161

Society E-mail:

[society@FlamboroughHistory.com](mailto:society@FlamboroughHistory.com)

Archives E-mail:

[archives@FlamboroughHistory.com](mailto:archives@FlamboroughHistory.com)

Website: [FlamboroughHistory.com](http://FlamboroughHistory.com)



Facebook: @flamboroughhistory

Instagram: @flamborougharchives

Twitter: @FlamboroHistory

YouTube: Flamborough Archives  
& Heritage Society

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