



Heritage Happenings

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Heritage Paper	Volunteer	Treasures	Threads through	Message from
<i>Hockey and Local</i>	Spotlight	<i>Both online</i>	the Past	the President
<i>Pride: The Harry</i>	<i>Current projects</i>	<i>and in person</i>	<i>Westfield Heritage</i>	<i>Plus other local</i>
<i>Howell Arena</i>	<i>and more!</i>		<i>Village Celebrates</i>	<i>society websites &</i>
			<i>60 Years in 2024</i>	<i>our contact info</i>

Sunny days are here again!

Summer has arrived once more - a relief after a winter that was the darkest in the province in more than 80 years.

Some of us will be spending our summer in the garden, though it may not be as magnificent as the one pictured to the left. Dr. J. O. McGregor stands in the gardens of his home, 'The Clunes', on Main Street North in Waterdown. Dr. McGregor was a "much loved physician of the old school tradition", operating out of his home. He was active in the

Waterdown Masonic Lodge, represented Waterdown on County Council, and served as Director of the Union Cemetery for 31 years.

Whatever you spend your time doing during the bright and sunny summer days, we hope you stay abreast of what the Society is doing out and about in our community. We hope to be as active and visible as ever, at varying locations throughout Flamborough.



Heritage Paper #312

Seventh and final in the series of "Conspiracy, Controversy, and Celebrity: A Rich History of Flamborough". Discover hockey history with 'Hockey and Local Pride: The Harry Howell Arena.'

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 for the summertime?

Flamborough Fire

We are actively planning for a exhibit regarding the Flamborough Fire Department. This initiative will be a collaboration of former members of the fire department, our volunteers, and will reach across Flamborough.

HERITAGE PAPER

Hockey and Local Pride: The Harry Howell Arena

Tess Moffat, Archives Summer Student

The final paper in the series under the theme “Conspiracy, Controversy, and Celebrity: A Rich History of Flamborough”

Hockey has long dominated the attention of Canadians on a local and national level from small town teams to the National Hockey League (NHL) and has formed a massive part of the Canadian Identity. As a result, one of the most important buildings that can bring multiple communities together is the arena. Hockey is not the only sport or event to happen within those walls and the building can house countless happy memories of learning to skate, spending time with family, and the comradery from team sports and lessons. For many in Flamborough, these experiences might have happened within the Harry Howell Arena, which was previously dubbed the North Wentworth Arena and is located by Clappison Corners. The arena has had a long eventful life as it was discussed for years before being built in the 1970s, rebuilt in the 2000s, and renamed in 2014. An arena does more than reinforcing the hock-



Vintage New York Rangers art print - Fine Art America

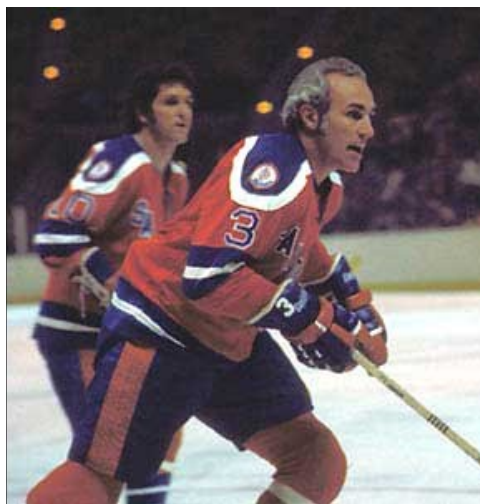
ey-crazed Canadian Identity; on a local scale, an arena represents the ability to bring the community together and provide entertainment for participants and spectators alike, contributing to a sense of pride.

The topic of an arena for the entirety of Flamborough had long dominated conversation within Waterdown, East Flamborough, and West Flambor-

ough, but it only seemed like a dream. While updates and requests for an arena were worthy of front-page news in The Waterdown Review, there were still several obstacles to conquer before the building would come into fruition. In November 1970, the Waterdown council had a lengthy meeting discussing several issues, including the arena complex. Prior to the council

meeting, a petition was put forward asking for approval of the complex to be added onto the upcoming election ballot and the price of the arena to be publicized. Council voted against the request as “[the arena] is still a dream, and no one knows where it will be built or even if it will be built.” The lengthy discussion behind wanting a Flamborough arena indicates that even if requests were denied and meetings were unsuccessful in coming to a conclusive stance on when the building would be constructed, the arena was something the public needed and desperately wanted. The arena would be a way to unite the Flamborough municipalities and councils as well as provide a source of recreation and entertainment. The potential cost of the arena was an area for concern for all three councils. For constructing and maintaining the arena, it was estimated to cost anywhere from \$250,000 to \$400,000. As well, an annual maintenance expenditure of \$30,000 to \$50,000 was projected. This money would have a very different worth today considering inflation. While this would appear to be a daunting obstacle for Flamborough, frequent meetings between the councils to discuss the sports complex culminated in a deci-

sion. By the summer of 1971, land for the arena was being sought out with the West Flamborough council not wanting anything east of Highway 6 and Waterdown not wanting anything west of Clappison Corners. In November of that year, the council approved a resolution from a joint meeting between the Flamborough councils. This authorized the purchase of fifteen acres on lot 24 of concession 3. The project was in limbo for almost ten years prior to discussions moving forward, but the constant push for the arena demonstrates its importance to the community.



Howell playing for the WHA's San Diego Mariners in the 1970s.
Hockey Hall of Fame

Construction of the North Wentworth Arena dominated political and regular conversation in early 1970s Flamborough. In January 1973, the Waterdown council consulted on the Com-

munity Centre's budget, which was presented by Doctor William T. Kellington. The plan was to have the ice ready by September with a director by July. The year's budget would total to \$46,000 and would include furnishings and maintenance equipment. The total cost of the arena was projected to be over \$300,000, but the provincial government would be absorbing part of the costs with grants. Updates concerning the arena were of interest as they constantly made headlines. By April, the steel frame of the North Wentworth Community Centre was erected. Unfortunately, construction hit several delays in January and February; as a result, the completion date for construction, which was originally May 8th, was unclear. However, by the middle of November 1973, Bill McGinley, the arena manager, put down multiple layers of ice. McGinley was hopeful that, after all the problems were ironed out, that a full program would start. By the end of November, minor league hockey players were practicing, and the Flamboro Skating Club had one of its first sessions in the new arena. Community skates were arranged soon after. According to *The Waterdown Review*, this new centre would be beneficial for families and young people



Harry's 1957 Topps Hockey Card.

www.pscard.com

alike regarding recreation. Outside of the rinks, the arena's internal structure was designed for the benefit of the public. The North Wentworth Community Centre had a community hall over the change rooms to hold meetings and township gatherings. The arena was built for and around the local population's every need, including a snack bar and the potential for the arena to be twinned. A twinned arena would have more room for different activities, encouraging a greater centralization of entertainment within Flamborough. Despite playing a central role in community life, the original North Wentworth Arena came to an end in the early 2000s. As one of two arenas in Ontario that still used an ammonia expansion ice-making system, it had

reached its life expectancy and as early as 1998, a new arena was proposed. The city planned to go through with constructing a multi-million-dollar twin-padded arena project in 2007. Considering the importance of the arena and hockey to local people and organizations, the new North Wentworth Arena would be constructed farther away from the road so the original building could remain open during construction. The arena had an active role in the community as a place for entertainment and for meetings and practices.

The new and improved arena opened in 2012 and was renamed in 2014. Prior to its renaming in 2014, dedicating the building to an important figure within the community and the sport was a popular topic of debate in council. The late Harry Howell, who passed away in 2019, was given this honour. As mentioned by his New York Rangers teammate and fellow Hall of Fame defenseman Brad Park in a letter, "no arena should be named after an average man." Howell, born in 1932, was a Hamilton native that would become an NHL Hall of Fame member and a renowned defenseman for the Rangers. He was twenty when he was signed on with the Rangers in 1952 and scored on his first shot during

his NHL debut on October 18th. He won the Norris Trophy for top defenseman in the NHL in the mid-1960s and was also awarded the Medal of the City of New York and honoured at the old Madison Square Garden with the first 'night' accorded a Rangers player. He was traded several times near the end of his career before retiring at the age of forty-three. Howell had 418 points in 1,411 games and six points in thirty-six playoff games. He was the general manager of the Cleveland Barons in 1977 to 1978 and he coached the Minnesota North Stars for eleven games the following season. Howell worked with the Edmonton Oilers for many years as a scout, earning a Stanley Cup ring and a place on the cup in 1990. Harry Howell was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1979 and his number was retired by the New York Rangers in 2009. In October 2014, the City of Hamilton had a renaming ceremony for the former North Wentworth Arena in which members of the public came to see, bringing along jerseys, pucks, and sticks for the guest of honour to sign. Harry Howell was not just an extraordinary hockey player, but also an influential figure within Hamilton and Flamborough histories. Harry Howell and by extension, the arena, according to

The Waterdown Review, “gave a lot of people an increased feeling of community pride.”

Throughout its life, the Harry Howell Arena has brought the people of Flamborough together through recreation and community, creating a sense of local pride surrounding the building and Canada’s national sport. Prior to its construction, the arena dominated political and ordinary conversation, uniting Flamborough over this cause. When the arena was built in 1973, its interior was designed for the community to centralize recreation and local meetings in one place. Even when the original was going to be replaced, it remained open to not disrupt village life. As well, by naming the new arena after local hockey hero Harry Howell in 2014, the city



Harry unveils a signage proposal at the North Wentworth Arena renaming ceremony, 2014. Flamborough Review photo.

reinforced feelings of community pride surrounding Howell, the building, and the game of hockey. While bringing the people of

Flamborough together, the arena also serves as a reminder that greatness often finds itself from small beginnings.

FOUND IN THE FONDS

The school year is finished, and summer vacation is in full swing. Even so, this article from the Greensville Women’s Institute Tweedsmuir piqued our interest. Spencer Valley was a ‘big room’ school that was completed February of 1969. The school was designed by architect D. B. McIntyre, who felt

“schools [were] factory-like and inhuman”. His design incorporated a unique three-in-one classroom, in which three separate classrooms could operate alone or together. Teacher’s desks were eliminated in the design. McIntyre said “the teacher has to become part of the class [...] a dictator-



teacher isn’t suitable for this school”. It certainly is interesting seeing how schools have adapted and changed to

the needs of students and education over the years, from one room schoolhouses to integrated community spaces.

Current Projects

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

We've been a part of this community for 50 years now, and our volunteers enable us to remain active and relevant in a changing world.

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.

One way we're celebrating this year is by hosting Trivia Nights at the Waterdown Legion. Our first this year went very well! Trivia Master Kim Hirst led the night of fun, and we were able to raise just over \$525 toward Heritage Society projects.

Stay tuned to our webpage and social media where we'll be updating with further Trivia Nights and more!



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.



Summer is here and with it brings festivals, markets, and other outdoor activities. We hope that our members enjoy the warmer sunny weather but also keep heritage in mind.

Our volunteers continue to be busy in the Archives. The main focus of work is clipping duplicate newspapers and cataloguing them. Sue McNally continues diligently cata-

logue previously donated material. Our WWI files and database are being finalized and checked by Bob Thomas.

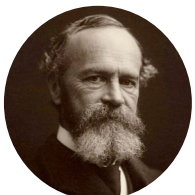
We participated in RED Day June 9, where there was a great response to our display panels. Our vice president Meghan Martin spoke at the Millgrove Cemetery Decoration Day June 11, held at Millgrove United Church due to some inclement weather.

Hamilton Public Library Local History & Archives have donated a

surplus flat-bed scanner to our archives. Designed for books as to not damage spines, it gives us the ability to scan up to 11x17 inches.

Waterdown Library's Makerspace is now live, and its large scale printer will be useful for displays, maps, and more.

We welcome back Tess Moffat as a summer student, thanks to the generosity of the Rotary Club. She is working on Heritage papers for the newsletter and cataloguing clippings.



"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

— William James

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



Women of Rockton Fair's straw stacking team

DONATIONS



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.

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 both members like you as well as non-members greatly support our mission.

We've recently updated our website to make it even easier to donate and see what we're raising funds for. We're also exploring other platforms to make donation fast, easy and accessible.

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



3,706



598



66



27

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



Our most popular blog posts continue to be stories of murder in East Flamborough Township.

E-Commerce

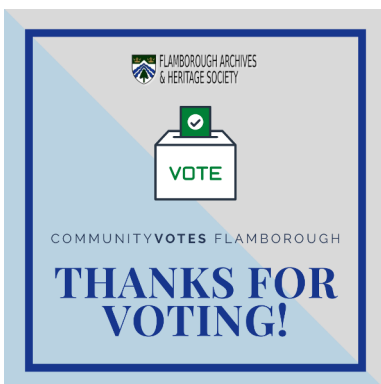
We continue to sell our latest republications related to West Flamborough and Strabane. Tell your friends, family and neighbours about our selection of books - there's something for everyone!

Once again, and as always:

Thanks to all for your support!

Taking a break is sometimes popular was a Facebook post of a healthy thing to do. With Courtcliffe Park - thanks to the amount of research, Shawne Weaver for the photo. time, and effort to come up with Followers of our page will see regular social shares, editing content to be uploaded to YouTube We were able to secure the Platinum award in the Museums category for CommunityVotes Flamborough for the second year in a row. Thanks to all our members smattering of social shares. Quite and followers for voting.

Even so, we continue to share our regular Friday articles with a smattering of social shares. Quite and followers for voting.



Treasures from the Archives



King Charles III's Coronation inspired our latest display, "Royal Ascent." View it in person at the Waterdown Library with more information available on our website. Thanks to the member that loaned the majority of the items on display!

Former members of the Waterdown/Flamborough Fire Department are actively pursuing a display in our large case in September to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Lynden Fire Department, and highlight all of the Flamborough Fire Departments. Julia from the Flamborough Review came to a meeting at the archives and highlighted this initiative in the paper. With the help of the display committee and our archivist, it promises to be quite the showing of fires in Flamborough and the various fire halls throughout Flamborough. We are hoping to get more donations - please let us know if you have some things that would work for the exhibit! The latest donation is 15 years of log books for the fires responded to by the Waterdown Fire Department.

The Lynden Library will be featuring one of our display panels put together by our archivist and summer student. While the public may feel that Waterdown is our main focus, we also wish to stay connected to the more rural areas of Flamborough.

Stay tuned for our September edition of the newsletter - we hope to highlight the various displays of the exhibit!



*Firemen's skill competition;
Lynden, 1979 - Facebook*



Greenville Fire Department - Facebook

ARCHIVES ACTIVITY - APR - JUN

	VISITORS	93
	CALLS	25
	E-MESSAGES	171
	ITEMS CATALOGUED	488
	ACQUISITIONS	37
	VOLUNTEER HOURS	678

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

Westfield Heritage Village Celebrates 60 Years in 2024

Tess Moffat, Archives Summer Student

The Westfield Heritage Village is a well-known and popular educational attraction near Rockton that boasts over thirty-five historical buildings and a conservation area on approximately 503 acres of land. The heritage centre preserves and depicts early Canadian culture, demonstrating how people lived during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Westfield Heritage Village is about to turn sixty years old in 2024 and has grown exponentially since its official opening in 1964.



*Glenn Kilmer and Goldie
MacDonnell*

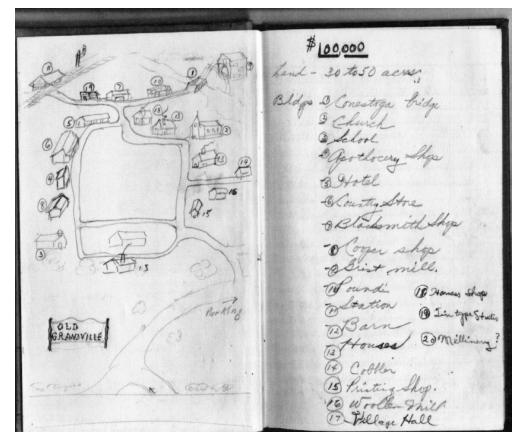
The village began with two Brantford high school teachers, D. Glenn Kilmer and Golden “Goldie” L. MacDonnell. Glenn and Goldie were descendants of early settlers in Upper Cana-



An Aerial View of Westfield c. 1963

da and had extensive collections of pioneer memorabilia and antiques; this shared interest most likely brought these two men together. Glenn and Goldie wanted to recreate a typical nineteenth-century village that would protect early Ontario history by preserving early nineteenth-century buildings, providing an educational experience for all ages. The first issue was the location. The current property of the Westfield Heritage Village was chosen due to its proximity to several urban centres and evidence of dilapidated fences. To properly recreate a setting, atmosphere and landscape were

detrimental, especially if the area had visible evidence of history. In October 1960, the duo purchased thirty acres of Lot 18, Concession 5, for \$6000. This decision was most likely supported and discussed by the Westfield Pioneer Village Asso-



Glenn Kilmer's Proposed Village



The Train Station under Construction in 1961 and the Building Today

ciation, a group mainly composed of teachers in which Goldie was the president, and Glenn was the curator and secretary. While the duo should be acknowledged for establishing the village, creating the Westfield Heritage Village was not a two-person job.

The site was initially dubbed the Westfield Pioneer Village. 'Westfield' was crafted by Doreen Kilmer, a teacher and the wife of Glenn; 'west' originated from Canada West, while 'field' is a common suffix in rural villages, as seen with Sheffield. The name has undergone several changes, such as Wentworth Pioneer Village in 1968 when the site was purchased by Wentworth County. In 1981, 'pioneer' was replaced with 'heritage' as the site examines more than the pioneer era, especially the 1920s. The name underwent a few more changes until 1998 when it was dubbed Westfield Heritage Village.

The museum had received

several donations in its early days ranging from the nineteenth to the twentieth century; however, they were not always minor artifacts. Old buildings were frequently purchased by or donated to the Heritage Village and disassembled and reassembled on-site. This would include local heritage buildings that were no longer occupied. In 1961, the first building on the site was the Jerseyville Toronto, Hamilton, and Buffalo railway station, built in 1896. The Westfield site had six other buildings prior to the opening, including the woodworking shop, general store, Misner House, tailor shop, print shop, and blacksmith shop. These buildings ranged from the early to the mid-nineteenth century and were from nearby areas, such as the Misner House from Troy in 1962. The buildings did not always survive the journey to the site intact and required additional touch-ups from local carpenters.

On June 15, 1964, the village officially opened with guest speaker Ray Connell, Minister of Public Works, and seven buildings opened for public viewing. Today, the Westfield Heritage Village is currently operated by the Hamilton Conservation Authority and has expanded, containing an elaborate trail system, over thirty-five historical buildings operated by dedicated volunteers, multiple events and live re-enactments, and opportunities to rent the facilities for weddings and other ceremonies and occasions. While the heritage site has undoubtedly faced its hardships, the attraction has continued to educate and grow with each decade, preserving history for the next generations to come.



Westfield Heritage Village Today

**- Sourced from files at Flam-
borough Archives and West-
field Heritage Village**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Despite some rainy weather in between, we're back to hot, sunny summer days. Kids are back to playing outdoor sports, we're out in our gardens or working the fields on the farm. We hope all of our members are enjoying the summer so far.



Our first Trivia night was a great success, and we hope to hold more soon. Unfortunately a couple of our board members have experienced some unexpected family emergencies, which has had to delay some of our planned events. We are wishing them the best as they focus on their family.

We look forward to our fall displays of the Flamborough Fire Department. Many of us have been taken care of by these public servants over the years, and it will be a wonderful way to highlight members, halls, and the challenges they faced over the years.

Thanks to all of our members for their support. Should you or someone you know wish to volunteer and help the society, don't hesitate to let us know. We are also open to suggestions for speakers or displays.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and see you in September.

Chris Rivait, President

AREA HERITAGE WEBSITES

The Ancaster Township Historical Society - www.ancasterhistory.ca

The Burlington Historical Society - www.burlingtonhistorical.ca.

The Dundas Valley Historical Society - www.dundashistory.ca

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

The Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society- www.hamiltonheritage.ca

The Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society -

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

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

The West Lincoln Historical Society - www.wlhs.info

Waterdown Mill Street Heritage -

www.waterdownmillstreetheritage.ca

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Facebook: @flamboroughhistory

Instagram: @flamborougharchives

Twitter: @FlamboroHistory

YouTube: Flamborough Archives
& Heritage Society

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