



FLAMBOROUGH HERITAGE SOCIETY



September 2023

Heritage Happenings

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September's Monthly Meeting

The Flamborough Heritage Society will feature a presentation on the Warplane Heritage Museum by Tim Speed, Sept. 28th at 8:00PM, in person at the Waterdown Legion.

Tim first became interested in aviation when he was in Air Scouts. Originally from the United Kingdom, he had a long and varied career in aviation. Tim immigrated to Canada in 1980 with his family, and before retiring was the CEO of a large air freight and logistics company.

On May 16 1943, Operation Chastise was one of the most iconic RAF Bomber Command missions of WWII. We will learn about how Sir Barnes Wallis developed the bouncing bomb that destroyed the hydroelectric dams, and the contribution that Canadian aircrew made during the mission.



Heritage Paper #313

First in the series of “Milestones and Memories: Anniversaries in Flamborough”. Discover the evolution of a structure to meet the needs of its community with ‘From Mail to Shawarma: The Many Faces of 9 Main Street North.’

EXPLORE FROM PAGE 2 >>

Membership Renewal

It's once again time to renew your membership if you haven't already. You can renew online or in person at our archives.

What are the benefits of membership?

SEE IT NOW ON PAGE 7 >>

Current Exhibit

Our latest exhibition is pretty amazing - we've collaborated with former members of the fire department and the results speak for themselves.

DISCOVER ON PAGE 9>>

HERITAGE PAPER

From Mail to Shawarma: The Many Faces of 9 Main Street North

Tess Moffat, Archives Summer Student

First in the series under the theme “Milestones and Memories: Anniversaries in Flamborough”

Waterdown has frequently changed and morphed throughout history, expanding rapidly due to the increasing number of settlers and the demands of business. Despite being frequently used for travel, Main Street, which was also referred to as Ransom Street, Snake Road, and Gravel Road, was considered impassable in the winter; however, in 1854, James Kent Griffin, son of the mill owner and pioneer of Waterdown, E. C. Griffin, constructed a toll road, providing the first direct connection from Hamilton to Carlisle. This addition started from Valley Inn in Hamilton, went towards modern-day Main Street, and continued north on Centre Road to Carlisle. In the early 1900s, Waterdown was exceptionally well-connected, and its downtown continued to grow in response to new demands, such as the establishment of the North Wentworth Telephone Company in 1907 and its exchange on the



Village Fish & Chips, August 1, 1978 - Peter Vance photo.

corner of Dundas Street and Franklin Street in 1908. Unfortunately, progress does not always entail stepping forward, as there are often major leaps back.

In 1922, a great fire tore through the downtown area of Waterdown, razing several buildings and flattening the downtown core. Despite this blow, the people of the village adapted and overcame, rebuild-

ing the town and relocating services and businesses that were lost to the fire, such as the Bell Telephone Exchange being placed in the Kirk House and the post office being moved into its original building, 31 Main Street South. While both businesses were temporarily relocated, Charles Burns aimed for a more permanent solution. Burns was a telephone exchange agent that

survived the sale of North Wentworth Telephone Company to Bell in 1912. During the fire of 1922, Burns and his nieces, Hazel and Dorothy, who were the telephone operators, played a role in attempting to stop the blaze. With the fire raging on, Burns requested Hazel to contact the Hamilton fire department for assistance. The local paper praised the operators for maintaining their posts despite the building being threatened by the flames. Unfortunately, when the situation became dire, linemen removed the expensive switchboard and stored the device at the Kirk House, effectively cutting off Flamborough from the rest of the world. While he was the telephone exchange agent, Burns was elected postmaster on March 2nd, 1928. In 1929, he purchased a small piece of land from John Henry Kirk, son of Patrick Kirk of the Kirk House, and constructed a small building.

The post office and the Bell Telephone Exchange operated out of this compact structure for years, with the post office on the right side and the exchange on the left. This arrangement certainly benefitted Burns' commute but also benefitted the community. Both businesses needed a more permanent location after the fire, and the area



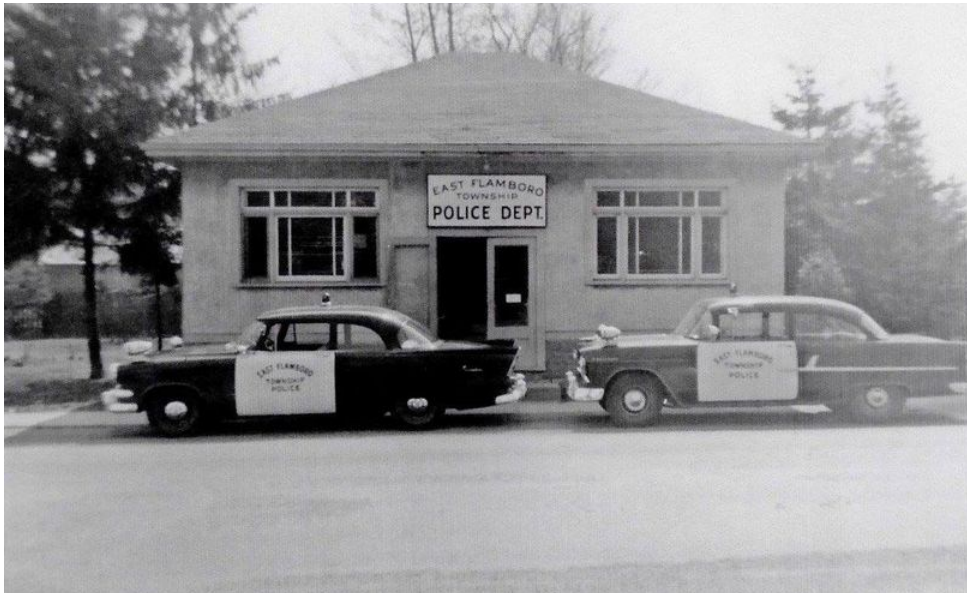
Waterdown's telephone switchboard around the time of WWI.

Facebook share by Jonathan Vance.

was central in Waterdown. However, the businesses would soon move on; in 1951, a more modern post office was built at 34 Main Street North to accommodate the growth of Waterdown and Flamborough, and in 1955, the telephone exchange moved to Mill Street North after the conversion to dial operation. However, the building was not vacant.

In 1953, the East Flamborough Township Police Department resided at 9 Main Street North. Before the formation of the department, the policing of Waterdown was handled by the village constable, a position that only became full-time in 1948. In 1955, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) moved into a farmhouse at 190 Dundas Street East to police rural areas not covered by village constables or the po-

lice department. The East Flamborough Township Police Department was short-lived; in 1958, Burlington annexed Aldershot and absorbed the police department. However, the Waterdown Police Department, which involved Chief Kenneth French and Constable William Coomber, was created and moved from 9 Main Street North in response. The Waterdown Police lasted until April 1967 with the resignation of Chief French and Constable Coomber, culminating in the OPP and later the Hamilton-Wentworth Police Department taking over policing in Flamborough. While the police department's occupation of the building was short-lived, their formation demonstrates the growth of the town and the demands of an ever-increasing population. 9 Main Street North



East Flamboro Township Police Department, 1950s.

From our collection.

was able to briefly accommodate the police, evolving yet again to suit the needs of its community. Following the property's sale to George C. Williams and his wife Florence in 1959, 9 Main Street North would transform yet again as it became more commercial. Williams initially planned on using the building as an office for his taxi business, A1 Taxi. The building was briefly occupied by A1 Taxi before Williams wanted a change in 1960. According to Village Council minutes published in the *Waterdown Review*, Williams wanted to open a restaurant and construct a second storey for living quarters; however, the Health Unit inspector denied his restaurant license as he needed a proper sink and grease trap installed. The inspector also claimed a sec-

ond storey could not be built. Undeterred, Williams created his restaurant, George's Place, and opened half the building up for living quarters for he and his wife. By July of that year, the Health Unit inspector claimed that George's Place had committed two infractions as Williams had no license or grease trap. Sometime in October, George's Place fell under new management, but the property remained in the Williams name. By 1961, there was a new tenant in the property, J. McDonald, and the Health Unit inspector was satisfied with the changes Williams had made, recommending George's Place should be granted a license. However, the Village Council was not pleased with Williams.

The Health Unit inspector had

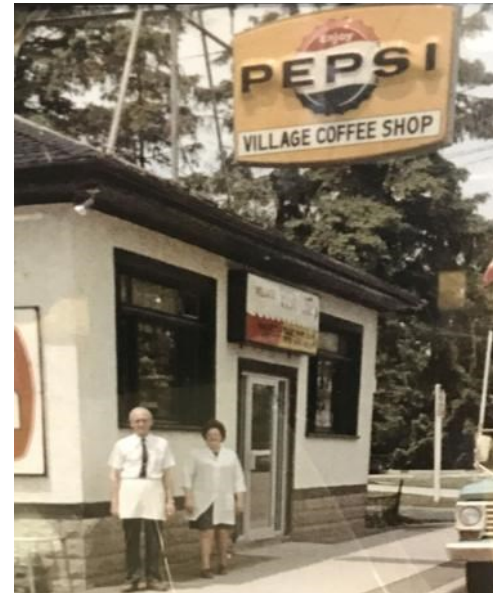
been requested by the Village Council to investigate the property as permission had not been granted for living quarters on the premises, but the inspector had started with the business as opposed to the residence. In January 1961, Councillors English and Johnston investigated the claims that the septic tank from the residence was leaking into the storm sewer by the Kirk Hotel. On February 9, 1961, the Village Council voted on whether they should ask those residing at 9 Main Street North to immediately vacate the property as they violated By-Law No. 578. The motion was supported by Councillor Gunby and seconded by Councillor English. By February 22, a letter was sent to H.M. Vance, the lawyer for the village, asking for advice regarding the situation; it was emphasized that the issue was not with the snack bar but the living quarters. By May 4, 1961, those residing at 9 Main Street North had vacated the property. The restaurant did not survive the year; on October 12, 1961, George Payne proposed to rent the property, using one side as a showroom for plumbing equipment and the other as a snack bar, which was approved by the Village Council. While there were no more residences at 9 Main Street North, the building would continue to

be used as a commercial space, especially in the context of a restaurant.

After George's Place no longer occupied the building, multiple businesses moved in and out of 9 Main Street North. On November 9, 1961, Northside Fish and Chips opened and was operated by Blanche A. Vance. However, in 1962, the property was sold to Helen A. Payne, and O'Meara's Fish Palace, formerly Northside Fish and Chips, opened around August 20, 1962. This was not the end for Northside Fish and Chips; the business reopened February 1, 1963 under new management. In May of that year, Vogue Beauty Salon fell under new management and went into the other half of the building, 11 Main Street North. On August 15, 1963, Northside changed hands yet again, and its name became D & M Restaurant; unfortunately for D & M, this was short-lived as it was renamed Village Coffee Shop on December 1 of that year. According to the Hamilton Directory, D & M Restaurant possibly returned in 1964, but there was no information in newspapers or other sources to confirm this. In April 1964, the property was purchased by Arthur W. Hutchings, who later sold 9 Main Street North to Arthur F. Lewis. The building continued to house

the Village Coffee Shop and Vogue Beauty Salon until 1966. From 1967 to 1968, the Village Coffee Shop shared the property with Marilyn's Beauty Salon and in 1969, Mortimer's Meats took Marilyn's place. 9 Main Street North underwent an identity crisis; it frequently changed hands and businesses kept leaving after mere months of being there. However, it would have a more permanent restaurant.

In 1968, the Village Coffee Shop and 9 Main Street North were sold to Cornelius Arte Bos and his wife Georgine Florence Bos. From 1970 to 1971, the Village Coffee Shop was the only business within 9 Main Street North with the other half remaining vacant. The Bos family attempted to rebrand the restaurant twice, renaming it the Village Restaurant and Village Fish and Chips. The latter stuck. Arte and Rene operated the business for more than twenty years before their children Neil and Cathy took it over in the 1990s. Village Fish and Chips had transformed over the years. When it first opened, it barely had twenty seats and while fish and chips were on the menu, it was not the primary focus, especially as the restaurant was also open for breakfast. Well known for its nostalgic vibe, its excellent prices, and its fresh food, Village



*Art (left) and Rene Bos pose in front of the Village Coffee Shop
Neil Bos photo.*

Fish and Chips was a Waterdown staple and frequently packed. After celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2019, the owners announced their retirement and the sale of the business.

Since the loss of Village Fish and Chips, 9 Main Street North has been occupied by two excellent restaurants: The Indian Hut and The Shawarma House.

Waterdown is continuously expanding, leading to rapid changes to accommodate the needs and demands of the population. 9 Main Street North has had many faces over the years, and it has evolved with the village, demonstrating its historical and cultural significance to Waterdown.

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. You'd be surprised with how a commitment of a small part of your time can help our society in a big way.

We are always applying for grants for our projects, but not all of the applications are successful. The application process is also a large investment of time and effort. Should you have ideas for fundraising or a way to help, we'd love to hear from you.



The Archives were a hive of activity over the past couple of months in preparation for the Fighting Flamborough Fires exhibit. Sam and Tess worked on display panels to be featured at the Lynden library, in conjunction with the Lynden Fire Station's celebration of their 100th anniversary.

A number of retired firefighters visited often and

shared photos, clip-pings, and their stories. A couple of the former fire-fighters were happy to allow us to record their memories for posterity. We have once again been invited to participate in the Waterdown Village's Scarecrow Walk. We hope to keep our entry related to the Flamborough fire theme - it's sure to be quite the scarecrow!

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.



We were a community partner and had a table at the City of Hamilton's Summer Concert Series - Waterdown Celebrating CommUNITY Event. We talked to a lot of people and feel it was a fair success. Thanks to board member MaryAnn Slagter for being our representative at planning meetings for the event.



"Volunteering is so pervasive it's invisible. We take for granted all the things that have been pioneered by concerned, active volunteers."

— Susan J. Ellis

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!

It's that time of year! 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 enjoying our monthly meetings on numerous different subjects.

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



Festival friends at Courtcliffe Park

DONATIONS

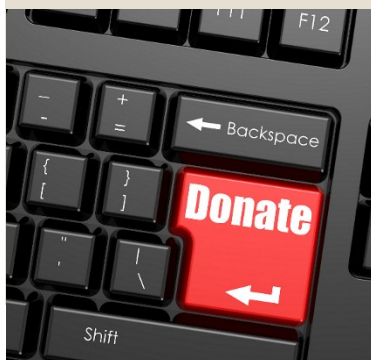
We receive a lot of donations of heritage documents, photographs, and items throughout the year. If you have something you think we may like, please let us know! You don't have to permanently donate an item - pieces can be on loan to the Archives for as long as you feel comfortable or copied and returned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

expenditures, donations from both members like you as well as non-members greatly support our mission.

We've 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.

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

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



3,717



603

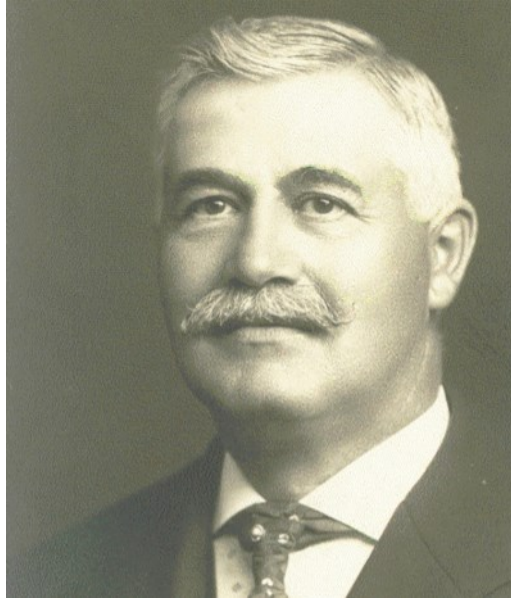


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We're constantly posting new content - tap follow and drop a comment to say hi!



Popular blog posts regard prominent folk of Waterdown's early history, including Mr. Sealey.

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!

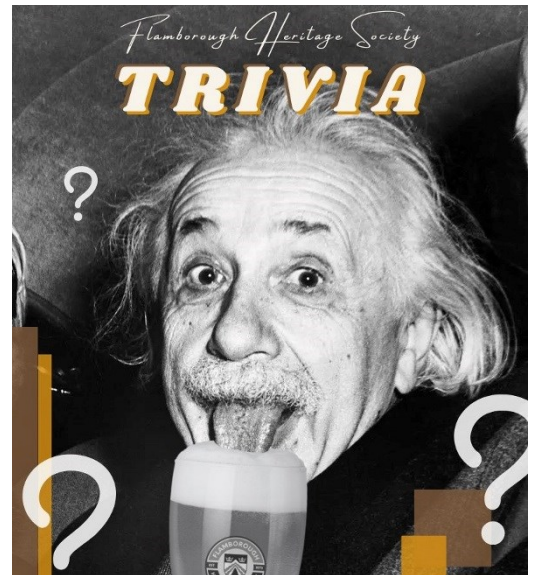
Once again, and as always:

Thanks to all for your support!

After a much needed summer break, our online presence is all over the world.

set to return with our very busy While we had to cancel our July autumn season. Exciting things are Trivia Night, we're looking to come, so be sure to be following forward to hosting more in the up- or subscribed to our various coming months. Stay tuned on our accounts. website and socials for updates.

Over the summer, our scheduled Thanks to all of our members who blog posts helped highlight some of share with us online, and help the prominent citizens of flesh out the human element of Waterdown's early history, and our history.



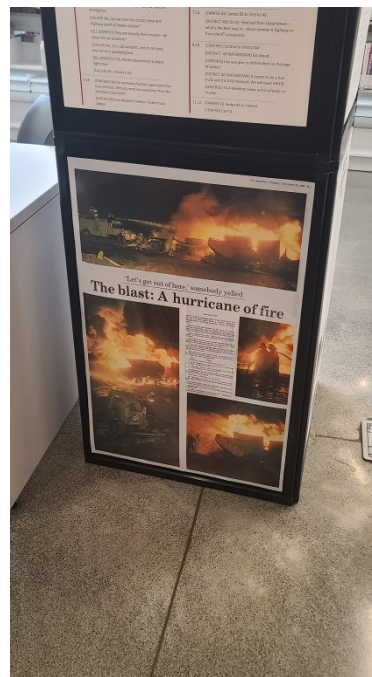
Treasures from the Archives



The large display case is filled with a variety of artifacts, including uniforms, turnout gear and more.

We're putting the finishing touches on a number of displays for our latest exhibit, "Fighting Flamborough Fires". We've put a few photos here but we encourage you to visit in person.

The project was such a resounding success that former members of the fire department want to continue collecting and donating pictures, artifacts and stories. Their hope is that in the future they would collaborate with us and create their own publication focusing on the fire department's role in the many large and small communities of Flamborough.



We've expanded our displays outside of the Waterdown branch of the Hamilton Public Library. Discover the history of Carlisle while visiting the Carlisle branch. We hope to rotate this display with other heritage photos and facts, so visit often!

ARCHIVES ACTIVITY - JUL - AUG

	VISITORS	111
	CALLS	29
	E-MESSAGES	155
	ITEMS CATALOGUED	312
	ACQUISITIONS	19
	VOLUNTEER HOURS	378

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

Our local newspaper

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist

The heart of many small communities throughout the decades has been the local newspaper. It is where you learned who was visiting and where your neighbours went on their vacation. Engagements photos were the norm and weddings were written up in great detail. Class lists showed who had passed—and who hadn't and sometimes their marks were listed for all to see, and comment upon.



It was where the local merchants placed their ads and Council meeting notes were printed. Sports scores, Guides and Scouting notes, service club information and

all of the local news was printed week after week. Many children earned their first money from a paper route. From a historical and archival viewpoint, these papers are pure gold.

The first issue of the Waterdown Review was published on May 16, 1918 with G.H. Greene being the editor and publisher. His editorial relayed that 'We have no apologies to make, no excuses to offer and no flowery introduction. We are here and intend to make this paper a benefit and a credit to the town and vicinity'.



This photo has previously been identified as being taken on the first day of issue, but the calendar on the wall is open at March 1921. However it was taken at the Bell House which was the first location of the pa-

per, and Mr. Greene is in the middle.

George Harold Greene grew up in a house on Highway 5 near Brock Road. Prior to starting the newspaper in Waterdown, he was a grocer in Copetown. The path which led him to start a newspaper is unknown.

There were originally 12 subscribers but Dr. Kenneth McGregor, son of the local doctor, bought 50 copies and sent them overseas to local boys fighting in World War 1. Through that war and World War 11, receiving the news from home was a real morale booster, and letters home written by the soldiers were often printed in the paper.

The original paper was eight pages, with most of the news coming pre-printed from a Toronto firm. The first and last pages, and one other page were for local news, painstakingly assembled one letter at a time.

Through the years the paper underwent format changes, going from the original 13 1/2 x 20 inches to a large format 17 x 24 inches in the 1930s, but

returning to a smaller size in the 1940s. The number of pages also varied, - the original paper was 8 pages, but in the 1950s it was usually only 4 pages. By then the news was being reported for communities in both East and West Flamborough Townships.

In the 1960s it grew to 6 pages. In September 1971, the size changed again to 13 x 20, and the paper grew to around 20 pages.

Following the amalgamation of the 3 townships into The Township of Flamborough in 1975, the paper masthead read 'An independent weekly newspaper serving the Township of Flamborough' and the February 6, 1976 issue had the paper renamed 'The Review' - but that didn't last long.

The January 5, 1977 issue (now being published on Wednesdays), headlined 'We've changed our name', stating that it was because of the change in the circulation area and the enormous area of Flamborough Township (about 180 square miles). It was one of the few remaining, privately owned newspapers in the Province.

Through the 1980s and 1990s the paper grew, now often having two sections, the second of which was mostly reporting on sports.

But in the 2000s the format became smaller again, tabloid sized, and the pages fewer. The Review office on Main Street North closed in January 2018, with staff amalgamated in Burlington, or working remotely.



Then came COVID. With the change to searching for everything online, the writing was on the wall. The paper had even fewer pages and advertising revenue was down.

Mr. Greene was the publisher from 1918 to 1940 with Gillivray S. McRae taking over on January 18, 1940 as the new editor/publisher. He brought a greater number of local stories to the paper. In 1948 he married Frances McRae and the paper moved from Flamboro Street to its final home on Main Street North. Frances took over when Mr. McRae passed away in 1952 and continued to operate the paper until October 1960.

The new publishers were John Vellinga and Sons, and his son Harry and son-in-law John Bosveld were placed in charge. John bought out the partnership in 1965. He passed away in 1988, leaving the paper to his wife and sons.

In the late 1990s the paper was sold to Southam News, and later to Metroland Media Group.

Unfortunately, after 125 years of reporting on Waterdown and Flamborough news, the printed version of our local newspaper is no more.

Metroland Media, the publisher of dozens of small community newspapers, has filed for bankruptcy and the September 14, 2023 print version of the Flamborough Review was the last issue. Although the paper will continue to have an online presence, at least for now, reading items on a screen is just not the same.

The Flamborough Archives is very fortunate to have had Ken and Cal Bosveld donate their collection of original issues of the Waterdown/Flamborough Review from 1918 to 1993. We also received negatives from 1979—1996. Both of these have been invaluable source materials.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

We've traded hot, sweaty days for crisp autumnal weather and mosquito-filled forests for trees painted by mother nature. Fall is here once again and it's usually the busiest for us as a heritage society.

We continue to celebrate our golden anniversary this year, and also wish to highlight other businesses, organizations, and community groups that are celebrating milestones of their own. By capturing the strengths available in our local community around community partnerships we'll continue to achieve the Society's objectives for years to come.

We hope that all of our members can explore our biggest exhibit to date, "Fighting Flamborough Fires." Not only does it fill most of the displays in the Waterdown Public Library, we're branching out to the further reaches of Flamborough. A display panel is available to view in the Lynden branch of the Hamilton Public Library to help celebrate Lynden Fire Station's 100th anniversary.

Looking forward to our upcoming programmes, another great job by Keri in arranging a varied schedule of speakers for this year. Be sure to tell your friends and family, and we'll see you at the next meeting.

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

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

Archives E-mail:

archives@FlamboroughHistory.com

Website: FlamboroughHistory.com



Facebook: @flamboroughhistory

Instagram: @flamborougharchives

Twitter: @FlamboroHistory

YouTube: Flamborough Archives
& Heritage Society

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