



FLAMBOROUGH HERITAGE SOCIETY



October 2023

# Heritage Happenings

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## October's Monthly Meeting

*The Flamborough Heritage Society will feature a presentation on Why Local History by Meghan Martin, Oct. 26th at 8:00PM, in person at Grace Anglican Church.*

This year we celebrate our golden anniversary. Many of those outside the “bubble” of a local heritage society would wonder why local history is so important. Isn't what we learned in school enough? Our vice president Meghan Martin will share how she started volunteering with the Flamborough

Heritage Society, where it got its start, its importance and how it continues to change within the community.

**Doors open for this meeting at 7:30PM.** We hope you will come early and take a look at some of the displays and artifacts we will have on hand. Cake will be cut just prior to the presentation.



### Heritage Paper #314

It's our golden anniversary!

There are so many people that have helped the society succeed. Discover those that helped the Society over our last 50 years.

### 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?

### Looking Back

We've been doing a lot of looking back on our own history, what with this year being a milestone anniversary.

See some of what we found in our scrapbooks.

EXPLORE FROM PAGE 2 >>

SEE IT NOW ON PAGE 7 >>

DISCOVER ON PAGE 9 >>

# CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

## Presidents of the Society over our last 50 years

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***Peter Vance*** President 1973—1976

Our first President, Peter Vance was a Society member up until the time of his passing in 2017. A scotch drinking, bagpipe playing photographer, author, artist and lawyer he was fiercely proud of his local roots. He was part of the Waterdown Centennial Committee which published the Centennial book in 1967, and his son Jonathan has donated thousands of Peter's photos, negatives and film to the Archives.



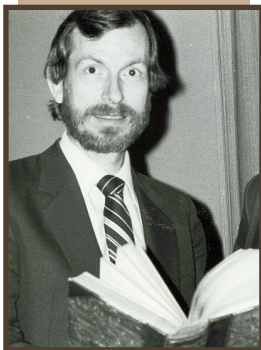
***Eilene Kennedy*** President 1976—1978

Passionate about local history, Eilene was a reporter for the Flamborough Review and a member of LACAC, the volunteer organization which documented hundreds of Heritage Properties in Flamborough. She was actively involved in many historical and heritage endeavours throughout Flamborough and was named Citizen of the Year in 1987.



***Paul Maycock*** President 1978—1981

Paul was one of the inaugural members in 1973, a member of the Building Inventory Committee and a Director for several years. A Professor of Biology at University of Toronto, he planted a garden of native plants around his house on Dundas Street.

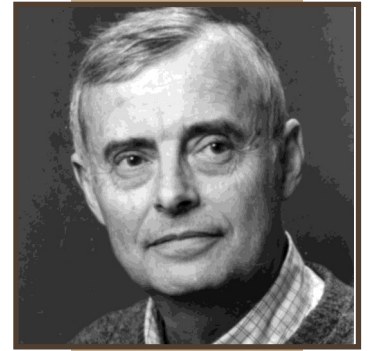


***Rick Clark*** President 1981—1983

Another avid photographer, Rick helped copy many photos for the Society and printed many of the photos used in the "Photographic History of Waterdown and Environs 1866—1984" display at Grace Anglican Church.

**Robert Wray** President 1983—1986 and 1990

Bob became a Director in 1980 and was actively involved in the annual Strawberry Socials, and photographic work for the Society and Archives. He remained active on and off the Board until 2008 and was honoured by Flamborough Town Council in 1993 for his dedication to the Society and promotion of the Society to the community at large. Bob also dedicated years to researching W.W. I veterans for the Archives files.

**Letitia Fraser** President 1986—1990

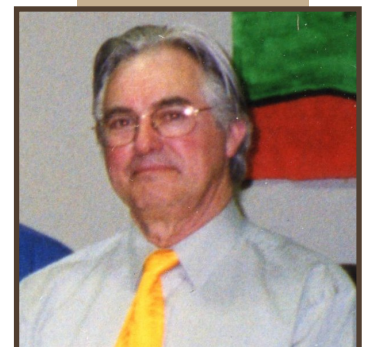
Along with her first husband Arthur Wallace, Letitia was an inaugural member of the Heritage Society. She continued to volunteer her time to the Society for many years but was only on the Board of Directors for her term as president.

**Lorraine Carey** President 1991—1993

Lorraine became a Director in 1989, then was Vice-President and President.

**Palmer Neal** President 1993—2000

Palmer became a Director in 1991 and was active on the Board in various capacities until 2009.







***Fred Perry*** President 2000—2002

Fred became a Director in 1997, then Vice-President and President.



***Lena Aggus*** President 2002— 2004

Lena became a Director in 2000, then was Vice-President and President. Although her time with the Society was short, she continues to volunteer in the community, is an active member of the Rotary Club and the food bank at Food with Grace.



***Dana Purvis*** President 2004—2005

Dana became a Director in 1996 and served as Secretary for many years before becoming President. She remained on the Board until she moved to Eastern Ontario in 2009.



***Bob Lalonde*** President 2005—2009

Bob became a Director in 1985, and served on the Board for 25 years. He continues to volunteer at the Flamborough Archives and along with Bob Wray has researched and compiled comprehensive files on W.W.I veterans from Flamborough. He was very involved with Scouting for many years and continues to volunteer at Knox Presbyterian Church .



***Cindy Allen*** President 2009—2010

Cindy began on the Board as the Secretary in 2007, then became Vice-President and President. She remained a Director until 2014. Like so many of our past Board members, Cindy remains active in the Community with the Rotary Club and as Office Manager for Grace Anglican Church.

**Nathan Tidridge** President 2010—2012

Nathan began volunteering with the Society in 2005, became a Director in 2007, Vice-President then President. He is a teacher at Waterdown District High School and is well known for his efforts to promote Indigenous history, and the monarchy. He has published several books with the latest being *The Extraordinary History of Waterdown and East Flamborough*.

**Chris Rivait** President 2012 to present

Chris joined the Board in 2010 as a Vice-President and has remained as our President ever since. His term has been challenging, with fewer volunteers and several years of COVID. A father of four, he is active in the community with various soccer, baseball and hockey associations.

**Sylvia Wray** Archivist, 1984—2015

Originally a teacher, Sylvia joined the Board as Secretary in 1984 and was the Newsletter Editor for many years. However she is best known as the volunteer Archivist for over 30 years—and for her calligraphy! Sylvia also spent many years on the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee and is co-author of several books. She has been honoured with several awards over the years.



## FOUND IN THE FONDS

Your newsletter editor came across Christmastime.

a Flamborough Review newspaper article from one of the Society's scrapbooks - we've had a variety of fundraisers over the years and some have definitely been more successful than others.

Nicky the German Shepherd and her homemade miniature sulky cart raised funds for a variety of causes in the area. For years, she and her master Jim Mitchell were a fixture at the IGA plaza at

Nicky and Jim weren't only popular locally - they made the cover of *War Cry*, the Salvation Army publication for Canada and Bermuda, for their efforts.

Despite having to sit out in less than ideal weather, Mitchell said:

"I don't know if she knew what we were doing [...] She just loved to meet kids and I was so proud of her."



## 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.



## 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 kept busy in September setting up our 'Fighting Flamborough Fires' exhibit. It was even bigger than just the exhibit itself, as retired firefighters from all over Flamborough loaned us photos, clippings, and shared their stories with our archivist Lyn in the Archives. Lyn also travelled around Flamborough fire halls to gather several items for

our exhibit. Despite having a good run with attempts to prolong its life, the computer we use for photo cataloguing finally died. It's been replaced but we must be mindful of other aging equipment that may need replacing in the future and budget accordingly. We once again participated in the Waterdown Village Scarecrow Walk. We felt it best to

stay on theme with our interior exhibit, and our scarecrow invites passerby in to the library to explore our displays. We hope you participate in the Scarecrow Walk, and be sure to vote for your favourite!



*"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others."*

— Audrey Hepburn



## 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!*

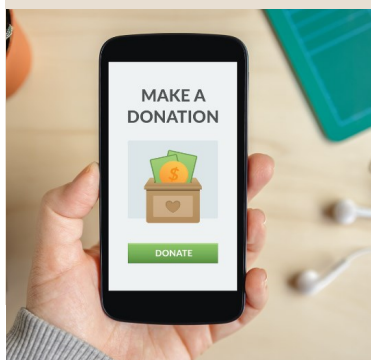
Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership with us. Membership runs from September to August annually, and helps support us by funding our operating costs. Members receive this newsletter as well as enjoying our monthly meetings on numerous different subjects.

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



*Fall on Margaret Street, 1980s*



## 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 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



**3,719**



**609**



**63**



**28**

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



**Our most popular blog post from last month was 'Carlisle Beginnings'.**

## 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!*

We're back to sharing a wee bit more regularly online, and are grateful to all of our followers for sharing and commenting on our posts.

Our release of this year's lineup of programmes was well received, we hope you've checked out the upcoming meetings on our Events page.

Our shares in the month of September were on theme with our 'Fighting Flamborough Fires' exhibit. The Lynden fire station's 100th Anniversary open house was a great success, and we've received positive feedback about our displays and brochures. We also shared our fireman scarecrow from this year's Waterdown Village Scarecrow Walk.



**hello fall**





# Treasures from the Archives



*The award recipients at the Hamilton Wentworth Heritage Association 1994 awards ceremony.*



*Retiring president Rick Clark presents the gavel to incoming president Bob Wray, 1983*

Flipping through scrapbooks of the Society's activities through the years allows us to reflect but also serves as inspiration. We can see what's changed and what we may want to revisit, and those that were with us over the years as volunteers, supporters, and champions of local history preservation.

Our past volunteers work lives on in the shelves of the Archives, and in our catalogue. Visiting researchers may not be aware but we know that the work put into making our materials easily accessible ensures research can be done efficiently.

Our current practices are built on previous work, but we also endeavour to adapt to our changing

needs. We can now catalogue digitally, saving time and making our collection even more accessible.

What does our future hold as a Society? With our dedicated volunteers and passion for history, we're sure we'll see a lot more photos and articles added to our scrapbook collection as a highlight reel for our next anniversary.



*Dorothy Mitchell and Ann Lalonde identifying artifacts at our 1995 Annual Meeting*



## ARCHIVES ACTIVITY - SEPTEMBER

	<b>VISITORS</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>CALLS</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>E-MESSAGES</b>	<b>78</b>
	<b>ITEMS CATALOGUED</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>242</b>

# THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

*The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society - the beginning*

*Lyn Lunsted, Archivist*

**R**egional Government. One tier government. Phrases which annoyed and upset thousands of residents of Southern Ontario. In the late 1960s and early 1970s the Ontario Government revamped local government on a scale not seen in two hundred years. Counties and townships disappeared and smaller towns and villages were amalgamated into entirely new municipalities with new names. Locally, the Townships of East Flamborough, West Flamborough and Beverly, and the Village of Waterdown collectively became the Township of Flamborough.

In the Village of Waterdown Council Chambers, on Monday January 29, 1973, sixteen local residents were welcomed by Waterdown Reeve Robert McNairn. He stated that Council had realized for some time the importance of collecting historical material relating to the area and was now especially concerned since this may be the last year of Waterdown having its own municipal council. The

people in the room had been invited by Council since they had shown a keen interest in the history of the village and Council hoped they could form a Historical Society. Members of the East Flamborough Council also expressed interest in the project. By the end of the evening a small committee had gotten together to lay the groundwork for a properly organized and functioning Historical / Heritage Society.

Those initial people were:

Mr. Robert McNairn  
Mr. Lyle Caswell  
Mr. Craig Fraser  
Mr. William Donkin  
Mrs. Ivan Sheppard  
Mrs. Ruth Hopkins  
Mrs. Eilene Kennedy  
Mr. Gordon MacKay  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Wallace  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Vance  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Maycock  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Harvey



*Inaugural meeting. Memorial Hall, April 6, 1973. Peter Vance photo*



The Ad Hoc Steering Committee charged with getting things going consisted of:

Lyle Caswell  
Walker Drummond  
William Donkin  
Keith Harvey  
Peter Vance  
Margaret Sheppard  
Eileen Kennedy.

At the next meeting in February 1973, the special guest was T. Melville Bailey of the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society who gave them draft outline of the steps to be taken and stressing that it should not focus only on genealogy. Don Woods suggested that a nominating committee be responsible for preparing a slate of officers to present at the first general meeting.

By the end of the third meeting in February 1973, the Steering Committee had suggested a name, formed Nominating, Publicity, Programme and Property Committees, created a budget, appointed a temporary treasurer, and suggested a temporary constitution. The name was to include 'Heritage' rather than 'Historical' as it was felt that 'Heritage' was a better description of what was to be preserved.

Plans for the inaugural public

meeting in Memorial Hall on April 6, 1973 included setting up the chairs in a semi-circle, having a display on the stage, music before and after the meeting, along with refreshments to encourage people to mingle and talk, and a welcoming committee at the door.



*Early display June 1973*

The executive of that early Society was very focused on getting things done. Committees were formed for:

- Public Relations
- Documents, books & maps
- Photography
- Artifacts
- Tape Recordings
- Architecture
- Genealogy
- Programs
- Newsletter
- Membership
- Historic Sites
- Museum

Over the years, the Society has tried to stick to those objectives although it was soon evident that collecting artifacts and having a museum were ambitious goals, and not likely to happen due to the lack of storage space. The number of people willing to help out on the executive and/or the various committees has also dwindled and we are no longer able to hold as many events as we would like. The Archives, rather than the Society, has taken on the predominant role.

The early constitution had Board members staying for two years, later three years. Because of this, our listing of Presidents shows most of them staying for short terms.

The constitution also reflected the number of volunteers - at one point there were to be no more than 22 Directors!

Today, we are scrambling to come up with enough people to fill the various Board positions, let alone have directors.

We wish to acknowledge those people who steered the Society over the years as listed in our Heritage Paper on pages 2-5.

We hope that people will continue to support the Heritage Society, and to volunteer.

New blood is needed!

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

We've had to reevaluate where we host our monthly meetings due to scheduling conflicts and technical issues at the Waterdown Legion. We are grateful they could accommodate us for a time, but we are now hosting our future meetings at Grace United Church in Waterdown.



This month's meeting features our own Vice President Meghan Martin speaking on "Why Local History". This meeting will also mark our 50th Anniversary Celebration - be sure to come early to see our displays, enjoy some cake and conversation with all the other attendees.

We're facing new challenges as a Society. With the loss of funding from grants we used to be approved for we must find other fundraising ventures that ensure we meet the needs of the Society and stay active in the community we serve.

Cheers to 50 years, and looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

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

### OFFICERS 2023—2024

President: Chris Rivait

Vice President: Meghan Martin

Secretary: Sue McNally

Treasurer: Lyn Lunsted

Past President: Nathan Tidridge

### BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Hirst

Keri Raphael

MaryAnn Slagter

Garth Wetherall

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist

