



FLAMBOROUGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

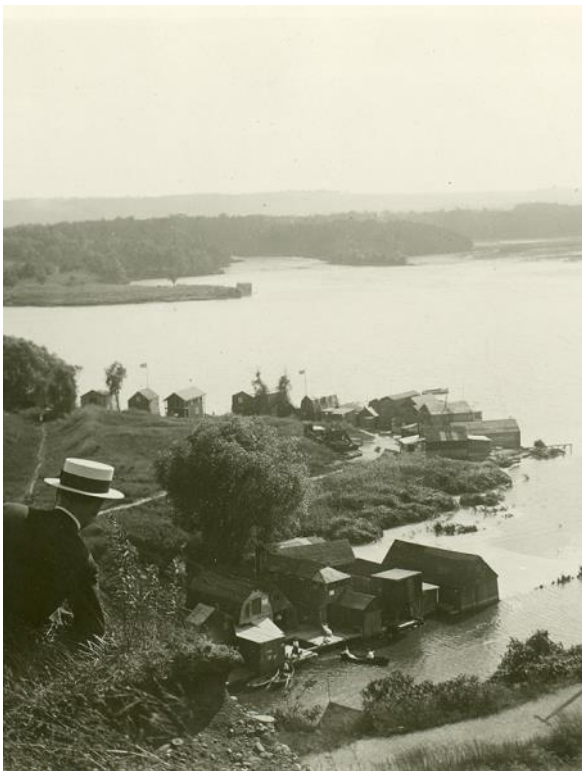


January 2024

# Heritage Happenings

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## January's Monthly Meeting

***The Flamborough Heritage Society will feature a presentation on The Desjardins Canal by Dave MacDougall, Jan. 25th at 8 PM, in person at Grace Anglican Church.***

Dave MacDougall is a member of the Dundas Valley Historical Society. In 2013 he took some canoe trips along the canal, which sparked his interest in the geography and ecology of Cootes Paradise. Through his research, Dave focused on five areas of the history of the canal: building, managing, enjoying, polluting and resurrecting. He will present his research of the canal from 1819 to 2018 with us.

We will try to hold this as a hybrid meeting, Zoom link will be available on our website closer to the event.

### Heritage Paper #316

Third in the series of "Milestones and Memories: Anniversaries in Flamborough". The year 2023 marked 10 years of Waterdown's Museum of Hope, a project that started as a way to engage students in the study of history.

### 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?

### Membership Fees

There's still a few members that have missed renewing their membership. We hope you aren't one of them!

Learn about how membership contributes to our cause.

EXPLORE FROM PAGE 2 >>

SEE IT NOW ON PAGE 5 >>

DISCOVER ON PAGE 7 >>

# HERITAGE PAPER

## The Light in the Dark:

## Celebrating 10 Years of Robert Flosman's Museum of Hope

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*Tess Moffat, Archives Summer Student*

***Third in the series under the theme "Milestones and Memories: Anniversaries in Flamborough"***

One of the greatest, yet heavy in terms of subject matter, classes one can take at Waterdown District High School is Robert Flosman's Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity. This course explores the history of several atrocities, including the Holocaust during the Second World War. As a part of the class, students must participate in the biannual Museum of Hope, a ten-year-old project that involves setting up displays and acting as tour guides for the public. Students can work on projects that look at broad topics, such as the air force in the World Wars, or explore their family's past. Regardless of their chosen path, the display is entirely up to their discretion. The museum, originally called the Waterdown Museum of History, is deeply involved with Flamborough; members of the community and students have donated the majority of the artifacts at the museum, and replicas and



*Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazi concentration and extermination camp, was liberated by Soviet troops January 27, 1945.*

***Photo sourced from StatsCAN***

large exhibits are the result of donations from local organizations, such as the Rotary Club of Waterdown. The class is extremely popular amongst high school students, partly due to the excellent reputation Flosman has as an educator. The Museum of Hope has earned Flosman recognition within the community and resulted in a national and international reputation. According to the website, the Museum of Hope encourages students "to understand their own place in history," allowing them to take an active role in history. By encouraging students to examine all aspects of world history and their connections to the past, the Museum of Hope has inspired students and the

general public for ten years, culminating in a greater appreciation for history and a deeper understanding of the past and present world.

The museum's inspiration was the 2012 Hope Project, a memorial museum that examined the Holocaust and was headed by Steffani Lang and Megan Richardson, two high school students from Flosman's history class. The Hope Project was set up in the display cases outside the classroom. The museum had several goals, including education concerning the significance of the Holocaust and community involvement; the Hope Project relied on donations and stories from those in the community, Flosman's existing war memorabilia collection, and artifacts and documents from organizations and institutions, such as McMaster University. As well, a traveling Anne Frank exhibit from New York, "Art and Propaganda in Nazi-occupied Holland," was on loan to the high school from the Hamilton Jewish Federation. As Rob Flosman describes it "I was looking for something more for students to experience history; more than exams and essays. The Hamilton Jewish Federation said that before they showed the exhibit (Dutch Resistance), we could have it for a week. I was excited and it corresponded

with the opening of the new expansion at Waterdown. We did it and I was blown away by the level of student engagement...it was obvious that teaching through artifacts was the way to real education".

This entire process sparked an idea. The class could have its own student-run museum through the procurement of artifacts and primary documents, creating a hands-on learning opportunity. A museum would not only allow students to think about their connections to history but could result in a deeper understanding of the past. After all, students had to thoroughly study their exhibits to prepare for any question and learn how to explain a display and meaningfully interact with the public.

The museum opened in the Autumn of 2013 in one of the classrooms. This was thanks to the Margot Stern Strom Innovation Grant from Facing History and Ourselves, a global organization that encourages the use of history lessons to teach students about bigotry, empathy, and how to stand up against hate. It had several donated display cases and had received loaned collections from the John McCrae Museum in Guelph and the Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton. The fall and winter semester classes had several exhibits

regarding Canadian participation in the world wars, the Holocaust, the Ukrainian Holodomor, the residential schools, and the Cold War. The museum relies on donated artifacts, primary documents, and stories from the people of Flamborough. For example, the Museum of Hope has a display dedicated to Nadia Rosa, a resident of Hamilton and a survivor of the Holocaust, who supplied her yellow Star of David and the ration and bank cards she received at the Theresienstadt ghetto. The museum not only gives the students a chance to interact with history, but it also allows members of the public to tell their stories, demonstrating that the museum affects the entire community instead of just the school.

However, the impact the museum has on the students is undeniable. While Flosman had taught multiple Lang children and encouraged them to research more about their family history, Matthew Lang finally solved the puzzle using his siblings' research as a base for his project. In Nazi-occupied Amersfoort, Lang's great-grandparents, the Van Roons, hid two Jewish children, Ralph and Marion Berets, in their attic for three weeks in 1945. Their family retrieved the children, who spent the last remaining months of the





*The walk-in trench is a popular exhibit, made possible by a donation from the Rotary Club of Waterdown.*

***[waterdownmuseumofhope.ca/exhibits/](http://waterdownmuseumofhope.ca/exhibits/)***

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war in a large chicken coop with other Jewish people until the Canadian Army liberated the area. Lang found the Beret children again, arranging a reunion for his grandfather Tom van Roon and Ralph in August 2017. The Van Roon/Beret story is currently an exhibit at the Museum of Hope and demonstrates the success of Flosman's project, especially regarding students finding their roots and living through history. The project gives students the resources and teaches them the proper skills to undertake in-depth research, an experience that they will be grateful for in the workforce, post-secondary school, and life. Flosman had earned local and national recognition for the mu-

seum. Considering its impact on the community, it is no surprise it has several partnerships with organizations in Flamborough. The Rotary Club of Waterdown gave the museum a sizeable donation, leading to the purchase of two uniforms and construction of a to-scale replica of a trench in 2016. For his work in the museum, Flosman also won several awards, such as the Governor General's History Award in 2017 and the Sharon Enkin Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education through the Hamilton Jewish Federation in 2019.

There was also international interest in the museum. In 2015, Flosman received a call from Dr. Jeroen Pinto, a Dutch doctor and

historian operating out of the United Kingdom. Dr. Pinto studied the airmen who liberated the Netherlands in the Second World War. After seeing Flosman's blog on Facing Canada, an online community blog for Facing History, Dr. Pinto proposed a partnership to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Dutch Liberation on May 5th. As a part of his work as a historian, Dr. Pinto arranged for memorial services on Royal Canadian Air Force bases in the United Kingdom, where he played 1940s big band music on one of three 1930s gramophones he purchased. One of the gramophones was sent to the War Plane Heritage Museum and then to the Museum of Hope before being whisked away and travelling across North America. The museum has also hosted prominent historians, such as Menno Metelaar, the Project Manager at the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, on May 15th, 2019. Metelaar talked about Anne Frank, signed some books, toured the museum, and donated virtual reality goggles of Anne Frank House in the Autumn of 2019. In September 2019, the museum was visited by Japanese researchers studying how to improve history education in Japan and used Flosman's class as a shining example. This recogni-

tion is well-deserved and demonstrates the museum's impact outside of Flamborough. Considering the level of interest the museum was generating and not to mention the amount of donations from the community and new projects from the students, the museum was faced with a crisis: space. The museum expanded in the Autumn of 2018, adding a new room solely devoted to the Holocaust. In 2022, it was announced that the Waterdown Museum of Hope would be changing venues and would be housed in the Waterdown Legion. The museum opened in its new location on November 7th with the official grand opening on November 11,

2023. Like most things in Flamborough, the Waterdown Museum of Hope has undergone a lot of change; however, its impact on the community continues to be felt. Not only has Flosman influenced the next generation and provided a space for members of the community to share their stories, but the museum has garnered the attention of national and international audiences and specialists. Many students who have taken Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity have taken a lot from their time in the course, changing how they view the world, their community, and their heritage. In my case, the class encouraged me to explore

my family's past, leading to the discovery of war heroes, family drama, and a passion for history. The Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity class can be quite dark; however, the concept that is so often discussed in that course is hope. Students are taught to find hope in the darkest of moments in human history and are encouraged to work towards a better world by becoming an agent of change instead of a bystander, which are lessons that anyone and everyone should take with them. Here's hoping that the Waterdown Museum of Hope will continue to inspire and lift the students of WDHS and the local community.

## *FOUND IN THE FONDS*

This advertisement was featured as a part of one of our 2022 exhibits, "Home, Work, Play". Advertisements are a great resource for our business inventory. This particular 1940s example from The Flamborough Review is a wonderful example of advertising design.

Sunnybrook Dairy once operated out of their location on Main Street South. Manure that happened to be on the street from their delivery horse would be quickly gathered by locals for garden fertilizer.

Crates full of little glass bottles of white and chocolate milk were delivered daily to school just in time for lunch. The milk man would not only deliver just milk - Sunnybrook would also deliver blocks of ice for ice boxes prior to home refrigeration and freezers.

Note the original phone number - 47. Later Sunnybrook's number would be MU 9-4831 until phone systems switched to all-number calling that didn't rely on telephone exchanges.



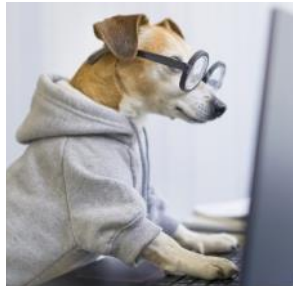
## Current Projects

**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.



Oftentimes it's hard to update our readership with news on what our volunteers are up to - some projects take months if not years to complete.

Our WDHS Co-op student Naomi was busy scanning even more years of The Flamborough Review from microfilm borrowed from Local History & Archives. She was also able to catalogue some artifacts and

## 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.*



photographs. We've said it before, but no matter which volunteer is working on it, the act of cataloguing items into our new digital system ensures items of our collection are easily accessible for the archivist, volunteers and visitors.

Some of our volunteers work remotely, like Meghan Martin. Though she's experienced some challenges over the past year that decreased her availability, she's been able to start

scheduling more social media posts in this new year as well as start to transcribe old heritage papers scheduled to be released later in the year.

Though the Flamborough Archives was closed for a couple weeks in December and has upcoming closures scheduled, we always keep heritage top of mind.



*"It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself."*

— Eleanor Roosevelt





## 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

*Logging in West Flamborough Township*



## 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 are always in need of funds. 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



**3,729**



**609**



**64**



**30**

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



**Our recent blog posts** have covered the history of West Flamborough, including specific buildings.

## E-Commerce

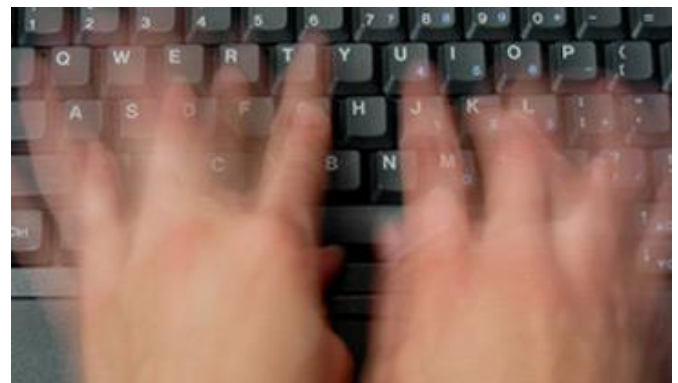
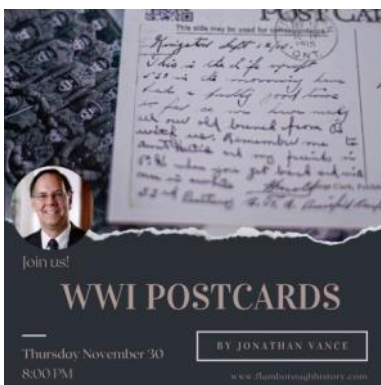
We continue to sell our latest republications related to West Flamborough and Strabane. Tell your friends, family and neighbours about our selection of books - there's something for everyone!

Once again, and as always:

*Thanks to all for your support!*

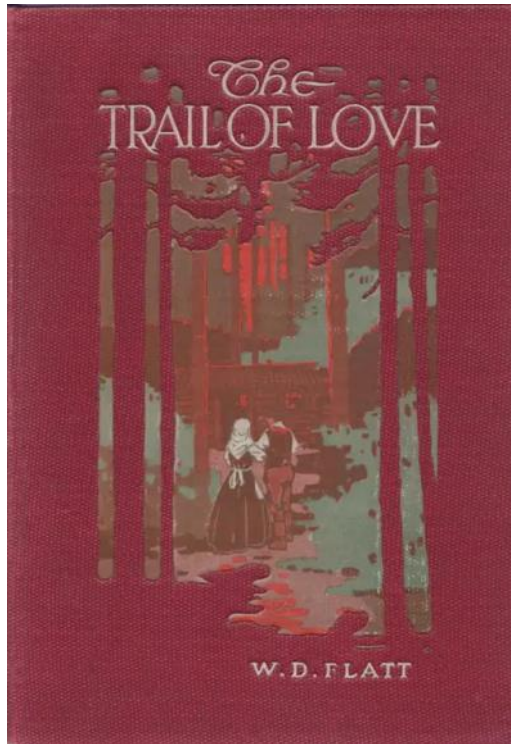
December was very quiet in the end of those that were transcribed two years ago, and so the cycle starts again. No need to worry about the 'From the Vault' articles - those are scheduled into 2028!

That being said there's still a lot to We hope to share more this year, do even behind the scenes. Those on both social media and our web-blog posts of previous Heritage Papers need to be transcribed before person when you can - there's a lot being scheduled. We're nearly to explore on our shelves.





# Treasures from the Archives



While we encourage members and non-members alike to purchase our own publications, there are many volumes on our shelves that assist with research, or inspire those interested in local history. Among these are old schoolbooks, recipe books, reference books, and important for this article, family histories.

Some of our readership may already be familiar with the Flatt family either through our relatively recent blog post of a Heritage Paper from 2001, or tidbits of information shared on our social media. They came from the Orkney Islands, Scotland in 1815, and eventually settled in Millgrove. Part of our collection, W. D. Flatt's *"The Trail of Love: An Appreciation of Canadian Pioneers and Pioneer Life"* is a wonderfully in depth chronicle of the family and how the author rose from humble beginnings to become a successful businessman and quite wealthy.

Despite William Delos Flatt's own statement in the foreword of the book, that he "lay no claim to any literary talent nor to any ability as a writer", the narrative flows with detail and captures the flavour of

what it was like to be a pioneer in the early days of Canada as well as information on lumbering in Ontario. The book is also filled with illustrations and photographs that lend a visual to the written words within.

It's publications such as *"The Trail of Love"* that highlight how important it is to document not only the genealogical history of families but the stories of trial they faced and success they reached. Such a book can inspire us to write down our own family story, for despite us feeling it insignificant today, it is a rich and important part of history, often overlooked and eventually forgotten.



W. D. AND MRS. FLATT

## ARCHIVES ACTIVITY - DECEMBER

	<b>VISITORS</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>CALLS</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>E-MESSAGES</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>ITEMS CATALOGUED</b>	<b>198</b>
	<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>191</b>

# THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

## West Flamborough Women's Fellowship

*Lyn Lunsted, Archivist*

The first 2024 display by the Flamborough Archives and Heritage Society is about 'Women's Groups in Flamborough' and much of the content is about the local branches of the Women's Institute. However there were numerous other women's groups in the area; some connected with service clubs like the Opti-Mrs, Kinettes, and Lioness, while others are connected with church groups. The 'West Flamborough Women's Fellowship' seems to have been a stand-alone group, not affiliated with any other entity. The structure, aims and work of the group seem very similar to that of the Women's Institute so it isn't known why they chose to create a separate group, although, at least in the early years, there was a distinct emphasis on religion and Bible study which may have a factor.



*Parade float for the Centennial  
Celebrations of West  
Flamborough Township 1950*



*Parade float, date unknown, possibly late 1940s*

In January 1945, Mrs. Marsales hosted a group of women in her home in West Flamborough village. The beautiful old stone house known as 'Stonegates' was built around 1835 and was purchased by the Marsales family in 1939. There were 46 women at the initial meeting. Officers were elected and the purpose of the group decided upon – 'to improve its members spiritually, intellectually and socially'. It was aimed at getting young women out of the house for a few hours and bring together others with young children in the largely rural area.

These early members were

divided into five groups: the Oaks who would research industries of the region; the Beeches who would research Early Settlers and old homesteads; the Spruces would research the post office and schools; the Maples researched the churches and the Pines were responsible for Transportation and Settlement. They originally met on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of the month, mostly in members homes. They chose the name 'The Young Women's Fellowship Club' which reflected their makeup at the time; the name was changed to 'West Flamborough Women's Fellowship' in



*Local councillor Mark Shurvin brings 50th anniversary greetings from the Town of Flamborough*

1970, as most members were no longer young!

Later groups were formed to reflect the subjects they were interested in: Dramatics, Charm & Beauty, Public Speaking, Current Events, Interior Decoration and Art Appreciation. Each of these would be responsible for a program during the year.

Every other meeting had a guest speaker. The speaker for March 1945 was Ellen Fairclough. Elected to the House of Commons in 1950, she became the first female cabinet minister when John Diefenbaker appointed her as Secretary of State in 1957. In November 1999, the speaker was Woody Thompson of the Greenville Optimists Club, talking about the history of Webster's Falls and their goal of restoring the bridge over the stream. It had fallen into disrepair and been closed for safety reasons. They hoped to raise \$200,000, restore

it and then transfer ownership from the estate of Col. Knowles to the Hamilton Conservation Authority. The Women's Fellowship donated \$100.

Throughout their history the donations were relatively small. They were not a money-making group and funds came from dues and other small fund raisers such as auctions and dances. Donations were given to local and community related groups such as Christ Church Anglican Church, The Salvation Army, vouchers and gifts for needy families, and various childrens funds and womens shelters. Other donations were given to health related entities as to the Cancer Society, McMaster Scan program, CNIB and Heart & Stroke Foundation. Most donations were given at their year end when they voted for their charity of choice.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon was held at Pat Hils Hall in Christ Church Anglican Church in Bullock's Corners on June 10, 1995 with 48 members enjoying the luncheon. Members related how wonderful it was to be part of the group, and the fellowship and support they were given – newborn children were given a bank book with an initial deposit of \$1; the sick were visited and given food baskets and books; new skills were learned, and interests sparked. Members

felt that the group was a success because of the people, the variety of pursuits, and the lifelong friendships gained.

By 2010, the group was down to 13 members and meeting once a month. A 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon was held at Don Zver's Potter's Café in Troy and it was noted that the last original member of the group, Margaret Jameson, had passed away in April 2010. The membership continued to dwindle. In February 2018, the Flamborough Archives was contacted to see if we would accept their records, should they decide to close.

At their last meeting on June 12, 2018, the six members met for lunch and decided that they would no longer keep minutes, and that their gatherings would be of a social nature. Their records were donated to the Archives in November 2018.



*Some founding members at the 50th anniversary. Back row: Mary Harvey, Eleanor Bradford, Anna Biggs, Marian Eby, Justine Read, Kay Gravelle, Ruth Orr. Front row: Eloise Baxter, Evelyn MacMillan, Grace Johnston, Betty Betzner.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

We greet a new year, although our own fiscal year doesn't end for a few months. We hope all our members and volunteers had a wonderful time over the holidays however they chose to spend it.

Though we're back to holding monthly meetings at the end of this month, the archives will have to close once again as of February 9th for six weeks. Our archivist Lyn is taking a well-deserved break and our new SpaceSaver shelving is scheduled to be delivered March 14th. Although it will be quite the undertaking to reorganize the archives using the extra space, we're quite excited that our collection will have room to breathe.

We've noticed that some of our members have yet to renew their membership - this is just a gentle reminder to do so when you have a chance.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. Stay safe and warm until then.

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

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



Facebook: @flamboroughhistory

Instagram: @flamborougharchives

Twitter: @FlamboroHistory

YouTube: Flamborough Archives  
& Heritage Society

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