



# Heritage Happenings

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## Summer Newsletter

Summer is here once more, with more rainstorms than we can count, leaving the few nice days something to take advantage of. Our self-guided walking tours are always available on our website—or in brochure form at the Archives—and are a great way to spend a weekend morning. Different routes have different lengths and topics, so you can choose the one that best fits your time, ability, and interests.

Another option is our History Quests, which were originally designed in 2020 and can be both a fun and educational way to keep kids and grandkids busy this summer.

Days are slipping by quickly, and soon our monthly meetings will begin again. Keep an eye out on our social media and our next newsletter for the announcement on the upcoming speaker and topic.

### ***Heritage Paper #319***

Sixth in the series of “Milestones and Memories: Anniversaries in Flamborough.” The year 2023 mark a milestone in our own history: 50 years with the Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society.

### ***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?

### ***Magazines and Match-books***

Learn more about the dedication to Halton County history that students had from 1978-1982, from a student-produced area history magazine. Plus, our newest exhibit is now open!

**EXPLORE FROM PAGE 2 >>**

**SEE IT NOW ON PAGE 5 >>**

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# HERITAGE PAPER

## Making Everyone's Business THEIR Business for 50 Years: The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society Celebrates a Milestone

*Tess Moffat, Archives Summer Student*

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

**A**s established in past newsletters, Flamborough has a rich history filled with community, hope, and controversy. The preservation of these stories result from public contribution and the hard work of a local organization; Flamborough's past has been studied, stored, and shared by the Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society for the last 50 years. The society's work has led to the preservation of the Flamborough identity and has encouraged the local population to inquire about their community. The beginning of the Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society demonstrates that the organization has always been concerned about the interests of the people and the preservation of the past.

Flamborough was not always one entity; prior to 1973, East Flamborough, West Flamborough, and Beverly were separate townships. However, this would



*The inaugural meeting of the heritage society.*

*From our collection, Photo #331*

change on January 1st, 1974, when the three regions were merged with Waterdown to form the Township of Flamborough, which was under the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth. This led to the loss of certain aspects like municipal councils.

This process concerned the citizens of Flamborough as they feared the potential loss of com-

munity identity, especially if Flamborough would continue to be swallowed up by a larger city or annexed and divided up among several municipalities. This culminated in 16 locals approaching the Reeve Robert McNairn in the Waterdown Council Chambers on January 29th, 1973. The group included Deputy Reeve Lyle Caswell, William Donkin, Walker Drum-



mond, Craig Fraser, Gordon Mackay, Ruth Hopkins, Eilene Kennedy, Margaret Sheppard, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Harvey, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Maycock, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vance, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wallace. They broached the topic of a society that would preserve community identity and history. McNairn encouraged the formation of the Heritage Society, and a steering committee was formed by early February with Lyle Caswell as chairman. Grants from East Flamborough and Waterdown councils funded the committee. This was a rather secretive group; the press was not invited to their inaugural meeting. However, the committee made the Waterdown Review editorial on February 7th, 1973.

In these early meetings, the Senior Citizens Club was considered an excellent source to consult as its members would have a vast supply of information. However, it was acknowledged by the committee that an interest in history was not restricted to a single age group; Craig Fraser, an antiquarian book dealer, noted with surprise that teenagers were interested in the historical materials from his book business. Eileen Kennedy explained that young people were trying to create roots in their communities, especially in times



*1987: Elizabeth Eby of Cambridge and a family register, an example of Fraktur art, before her demonstration for the Heritage Society.*

**From our collection,**

**Photo #275**

of change and turmoil. The committee established that the public would need to be directly involved and engaged for the historical society to benefit the community. After all, this would be an organization designed for the people of Waterdown and East Flamborough.

*WEFHS members Robert Wray, Ina Vrugtman, Dorothy Farquharson and Letitia Fraser begin cataloguing photos, 1987.*

**From our collection, Photo #159**



The following meeting in February involved a talk from T. Melville Bailey, a Hamilton author and historian, who was the past president, first secretary, and charter member of the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society. Bailey provided information and answered questions regarding how to form a historical society, how to run one, and general details about historical societies. The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society now had many ideas; everything from published newsletters to "Historic Waterdown and East Flamborough" bumper stickers were discussed.

Publicity would also be another essential step before the inaugural meeting. A large banner was hung over Main Street, advertising the society. The newspaper would promote the Heritage Society, but the committee also wanted to include the community on a deeper level. They



*WEFHS directors and children at the 1982 Strawberry Social.  
From our collection, Photo #241*

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talked with various figures and representatives throughout the community, such as Mrs. Albert Page, who represented the women of the township and offered to publicize the plans for a Heritage Society at the meetings for the Mountsberg Women's Institute, Waterdown Women's Institute, and Carlisle Optimists Club. As of March 1st, 1973, it was also suggested by the playwright and journalist Vicki Branden that publicity could be arranged for cable and radio. Poster contests would also be held to involve the youths. Students from several schools were asked to submit their posters; those who won had their art displayed at the Waterdown Library and were

given a monetary prize, while the others were used around Waterdown and East Flamborough as advertising. These posters, which the art teacher would edit to include the purpose, time, and place of the meeting, would be distributed to the public. Flyers designed by local artists, such as Gery Brender à Brandis, would also be circulated. There were also talks of local businesses advertising the inaugural meeting, such as Gray's Florist. This entire community-driven effort brought everyone, regardless of age, together.

Interest in the Heritage Society continued to rise. In early April, people from all over Flamborough brought their docu-

ments, diaries, and photographs of historical interest to the Heritage Society. From the very beginning, the society had made history accessible and open to the public, a feat that many academics struggle to accomplish even today. In their minutes and the various advertisements, they expressed a desire to hear the ideas and stories of the public, aiming to have a large audience for their first meeting. Above all else, the Heritage Society sought to be inclusive and open.

The inaugural meeting of the Heritage Society occurred on April 6th, 1973, and had over 300 attendees. Peter Vance was elected the first president of the society. The meeting consisted of displays, speakers, and an open floor. This was the beginning of the Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society, and they had their community to thank for such an excellent start.

Like Flamborough, the Heritage Society continues to grow and expand, resulting in establishing its archives originally at 315 Dundas Street East, the appointment of their first archivist Sylvia Wray in 1987, and their new facilities in 2015, which Lyn Lunsted manages. While the archives are tucked away in the corner of the library, their door always remains open to anyone inquiring about the past or with



an addition to their holdings. Outside of their meetings and speakers, the society also organizes community-wide events, such as trivia, tours, and outreach to local schools. Teachers, such as Nathan Tidridge, Allan Parker, and Robert Flosman should also be acknowledged for teaching the history of Flamborough, inspiring students to take an interest in their town. As Waterdown and Flamborough continue to expand, the society remains an active part of Flamborough, preserving the area's history for the next generation.



*Chestnut Grove, former home of the Archive's holdings.  
From our collection, Photo #461*

## *FOUND IN THE FONDS*

Waterdown District High School is the “newest” in several iterations of secondary school in Flamborough. First was the Sealey Park school, beginning 1854. Damage slowly built up and classes were forced to move temporarily into the Grace Anglican Church, the East Township Hall, and later, the upper level of Mary Hopkins. The next dedicated high school opened on Dundas St. in February 1928. In the move to the current school on Parkside, most of the records held by the school were lost. HWDSB and teachers at WDHS thought that the school’s history was gone—this was a be-

*Dundas  
Street high  
school c.  
1960.*

***From our  
collection,  
Photo  
#3045***



lief the Archives were unaware of. On a coincidental visit, this miscommunication was resolved. Copies were made and research was done—verbal histories of senior teachers at the school will also be noted before they retire. Our holdings include former class

offerings, brochures, building plans, anniversary documents, sports team details, among much more.

What may be lost to time, though, is a supposed time capsule in the walls of the Dundas Street high school, planned to open 2028.

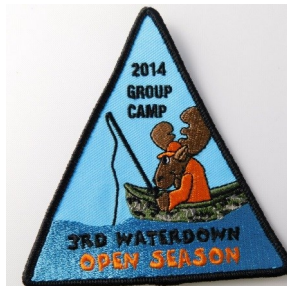
## Current Projects

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.*

Doors Open Hamilton was bustling this past May. Waterdown was well-represented, with a guided walking tour conducted by Lyn Lusted, Garth Wetherall, and Nathan Tidridge. Also participating were several Waterdown churches, Pickwick Books, and the American House.

The Archives is a full house this summer! Three students over the sum-

mer months are tackling various ongoing projects: continuing to catalogue the Review's negatives, research for and drafting of upcoming editions of the Heritage Papers, and our new display featuring matchbooks in Flamborough. As well, of course, as the continuous digitization, organization, and accessions needed to make the infor-

mation stored here reach beyond our walls.

Bob Lalonde has completed compiling the "Scout News" column formerly featured in the Review. Have any questions about Boy Scouts in Waterdown or want to reminisce on the reported events? Thanks to his efforts, this history will be easily accessible for curious minds.



*"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love. What we do is less than a drop in the ocean, but if it were missing, the ocean would lack something."*

— Unknown



## 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



*The Eaton Family reunion, 1926. From our collection, Photo #239*

**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.

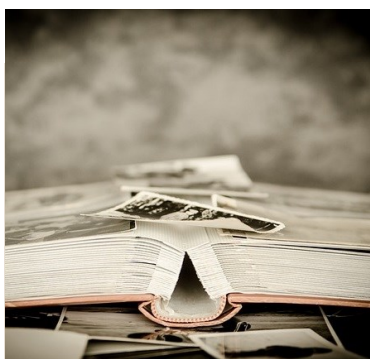
We are always in need of funds. While memberships, book sales and grants help us with our day-to-day expenditures, donations from both members like you as well as non-

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



**3,854**



**630**



**64**



**39**

We love posting new content - tap follow and drop a comment to say hi!



**Our blog posts** featured a lot of 'Lost Flamborough', including the historic Valley Inn Hotel.

## E-Commerce

Check out our wares online - we've got something for everyone. Be it a book or a membership, purchasing from our online store supports us as a society and ensures we can preserve local history.

Once again, and as always:

*Thanks to all for your support!*

Our summer online was fairly laid back. We again won the Platinum award in CommunityVotes Flamborough 2024 under their Museums category.

We shared photos from one of our followers, George Kush of pea threshing at Tip Top Cannery from June 1942. George is a local history promoter and an artist based out of Ford McLeod, Alberta. We appreciate the photos and

stories of Flamborough he shares with us!

One of our most popular posts of the summer was a winter pic of the old Waterdown South Station.

The last item of interest was a parcel wrapper sent by artist Arthur John Randle Ford to his son Norman Randle Ford who was a blacksmith in Greenville. His shop was painted by Group of Seven artist A. J. Casson.





# Treasures from the Archives



Flamborough businesses of the past and present are the focus of our newest exhibit, “Striking up Business” in the Waterdown Library, inspired by the matchbook advertisements many produced.

A fascinating donation received earlier this year is a complete set of the student-produced magazine *Brass Tacks*. Made by a grade 11 class each semester at Burlington Central High School, new issues came out in December and May from 1978-1982. Each issue’s purpose was to “share with the community the oral and cultural history of the Halton Country and its immediate vicinity.” Each magazine is around 50 pages and in-

cludes approximately 10-15 well-produced articles. Every major topic you could hope for, like mills, churches, and schooling are covered, and many more you’d never think of—like antique dolls, dowsing for water, and a brief history of piggy banks. Of special interest to Flamborough readers would be an interview with Ernie Weeks and a focus on Aldershot business J. Cooke Concrete Block Ltd. The effort and care put into

these articles shine through the worn pages. Reading the forewords printed on the inside cover also provides insight into the class over the years. The first issue speaks of the multitude of frustrations the students had to overcome, while the second issue is awe-struck by selling out. The final issue reminisces on the unique experiences each class got to take part in, and the community they gained during the research and production.



*Brass Tacks, the set.*

## ARCHIVES ACTIVITY - APR - JUN

	<b>VISITORS</b>	<b>41</b>
	<b>CALLS</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>E-MESSAGES</b>	<b>171</b>
	<b>ITEMS CATALOGUED</b>	<b>66</b>
	<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>514</b>

# THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

## Three Month Schools

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist

The Women's Institutes were a key player in the establishment of the Three Month School. Under the Agricultural and Arts Amendment Act of 1902, Women's Institutes obtained formal legal stature in the Province of Ontario. Branches of the W.I. strove to educate women in nutrition, sewing, cooking, home economics and other subjects. They recognized that many women in rural communities did not have access to high schools, and therefore didn't qualify for higher education. In 1913 a joint venture between the MacDonald Institute in Guelph and the Ontario Women's Institutes was launched. The instructors would travel to the students, setting up classes in rural communities, teaching domestic science courses of 3-6 weeks.

Sir James Whitney was a Conservative member of parliament from Dundas, first elected in 1888. He became Premier in 1905 and continued to lobby for better agricultural education. The Ontario School of Agriculture had been established in Guelph in 1874, becoming Ontario Agricultural College in 1880. In 1903 the MacDonald Institute became a part of the college. It was funded by Sir William MacDonald as part of the movement led by Adelaide Hoodless and the Women's Institute to promote domestic science in rural Canada. In 1921 a second agricultural school was built in Kemptonville to serve Eastern Ontario.

A system of District Representatives from the Ontario Department of Agriculture was implemented by Premier Whitney, intended to teach agriculture to boys in the Agricultural

Schools. However they found that better use of their time was to go to Fall Fairs, school fairs, Junior Farmer Improvement Associations etc. to show the advantages to be gained through education, and create a demand for the schools.

Large numbers of 16-25 years olds had left school, but they wanted to take advantage of further education in their chosen field, if it could be done cheaply and conveniently. There was also a demand for education in domestic science for young women in rural areas. Building on the success of the Women's Institute courses, the Department proposed a similar method.

In 1921, the Ontario Government proposed a high school course in agriculture, the first in the province. The experimental course was held in Waterdown and ran from December to February. An article in the Waterdown Review of November 3, 1921 stated that 'The venture, which is intended to give young people interested in farms and farming an opportunity of studying various phases of

Wentworth County School  
— OF —  
**AGRICULTURE**  
— AND —  
**DOMESTIC SCIENCE**  
Under the Management of the  
Ontario Department of Agriculture  
Wentworth County Branch  
To be held at  
**WATERDOWN**  
November 28th, 1921 to March 3rd, 1922  
Nov. 28th to Dec. 25th—Special Lectures  
on Fruit, Vegetables, Soils and Fertilizers.  
HON. MANNING W. DOHERTY  
Minister of Agriculture  
W. G. MARRITT  
Agriculture Representative

*Waterdown Review*  
Nov 21, 1921

agriculture, is largely an experiment, and upon the success of this school and similar schools to be established in Peel, Middlesex and Huron, depends whether further courses will be



available.'

The instructors were supplied by the Department of Agriculture although they were not necessarily employed by the Government. The local committee was asked to provide a suitable building. There is no record of where this school was held but given that the new Public School was the location of a public meeting about the proposed school, and the old school in Sealey Park had been condemned, a logical choice would have been that school, now



*The graduating class of the first Three Month School.  
Waterdown, March 1922*

Mary Hopkins.

The subjects to be taught were extremely comprehensive: Field Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Agriculture, Entomology, farm forestry, veterinary science, farm engineering, dairying and farm management, Civics, rural organization and co-operative marketing. The course for girls included English, mathematics and agricultural subjects of poultry, gardening, agriculture and dairying. Household administration was also taught which included house plans and household accounts. In addition, there were specialized courses each month; December was foods and cooking, January was sewing and millinery and home nursing in February.

Ads ran in the newspaper every week for the month of November and by December 1, there were 65 pupils enrolled. Notes regarding transportation pointed out that the C.P. R. line went through the centre of East Flamborough

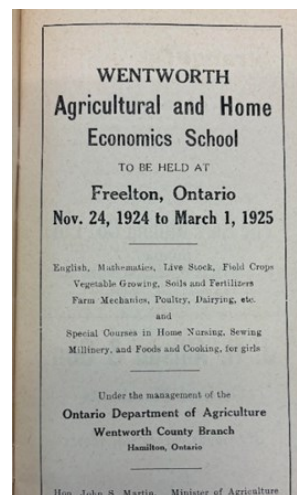
Township and stopped in Waterdown, so pupils from all over the Township could attend. Waterdown was close to Hamilton so it could be reached by good roads, and the Radial. The Waterdown Bus would meet all Radial cars reaching Hamilton before 9:00 a.m. and proceed directly to Waterdown in time for the first lectures, and return every day at 4:30 p.m.

For students from further away, both the Kirk House and the American House offered board at a 'reasonable rate'.

The pledge to the students from the Government was heartfelt:

'A period of three months is but a short period in a lifetime. It is also a short period in which to attain a knowledge of the sciences underlying the practices that make successful farms and homes. This school is to fill the immediate need and to reach those of you who have not had an opportunity of attending the established educational institutions of our Province and to

give you a beginning in the sciences that mean so much to those living on the land. It is the hope of the officials of your Provincial Department of Agriculture that all of you who may elect to become students in the school will be aided in your progress towards successful rural citizenship.'



*Graduating Class in Millgrove, March 18, 1936.*

The experiment was successful and the schools continued for decades.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

While we don't have membership meetings through the summer, we continue to keep very busy planning meetings for the next year and thinking of ways to keep history alive.

After 5 months, we are finally (almost) back to normal after the cyber attack on the City of Hamilton. Because we are on the library systems for our computers, email and phone, all of those were down initially. Our phone came back after a couple of weeks and then, after purchasing wi-fi adapters for our computers, we were able to access our files which were on the cloud. Luckily for us, that included most of our files, but access were very slow and we could not print directly to the printer. As of last week, our printing capability was restored. Now we just need a new computer to access our microfilm and scanner software.

Our newest display in the Library is based on the Archives Collection of matchbook covers and we have included a bit of history on the businesses as well as photos. Come and take a little look down memory lane.

This is our community. Help us keep the memories alive.

See you in the Fall.

Chris Rivait, President



## **THE FLAMBOROUGH HERITAGE SOCIETY**

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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

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



### **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://Grimsby Historical Society).

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://Head of the Lake Historical Society)

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)