



Heritage Happenings

02 Heritage Paper <i>The Lifeblood of a Community for 190 Years</i>	06 Volunteer Spotlight <i>Current projects and more!</i>	08 Treasures <i>Back online, at (nearly) full operations</i>	10 Threads through the Past <i>Four Corners—Then and Now</i>	12 Message from the President <i>Plus other local society websites & our contact info</i>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

September Meeting

The Lorenz and Enigma by Tim Speed

Sept. 26, 2024, 8pm Grace Anglican Church. Waterdown

Tim Speed, originally from the United Kingdom, has spent most of his life interested in aviation. He joined the Air Scouts when young and became CEO of a large air freight and logistics company before his retirement. Tim emigrated to Canada with his family in 1980.

This talk will be about the Lorenz and Enigma cipher machines used in WW2 and the Allies' codebreaking efforts. It will go into detail on the machines themselves, and the Bletchley Park cryptanalysts development of intelligent machines to break them.

Photo credit to Ferrari2k, CC BY-SA 4.0



Heritage Paper #320

Seventh in the series “Milestones and Memories: Anniversaries in Flamborough.”

Kirkwall Presbyterian Church celebrated their 190th year in 2023—learn about their history and role in the community.

EXPLORE FROM PAGE 2 >>

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?

SEE IT NOW ON PAGE 5 >>

Transfer Gold

Read more to learn about one of our newest acquisitions, including church history, poetry, and the cost of bricks in 1872.

DISCOVER ON PAGE 9 >>

HERITAGE PAPER

The Lifeblood of a Community for 190 Years: The History of the Kirkwall Presbyterian Church

Tess Moffat, Archives Summer Student

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

When settlers first came to Canada, they were looking for a place that felt like the home they had left behind. While there might have been some familiarities in the landscape or some cultural practices that might have migrated with them, the colonists were in a foreign land with different systems and rules. To make themselves more at ease, the settlers needed change. They drastically altered the landscape to construct homes, farms, and towns and attempted to make their settlements feel like Europe. This culminated in many places named after European locations, such as Nova Scotia (or New Scotland) and Stratford in Ontario. Another aspect of European identity that was transferred was the cultural and spiritual practices. One of the first buildings to be constructed in a settlement was typically the church, which provided strong social cement for the community and was a marker of European identity.

This was the case for Kirkwall, a small community in Flamborough primarily settled by Scot-



Kirkwall Presbyterian Church.

From our collection, Photo #569

tish immigrants. Their Presbyterian age.

The church was constructed in 1835, but their congregation dates to 1833, indicating they celebrated their 190th anniversary in 2023. The church helped define the community's identity and was the centre for social activities, tying Scottish culture to Kirkwall. While Kirkwall has of course changed with the times, the Kirkwall Presbyterian Church remains a harbour for social events and community herit-

Scotland has a unique history with Canada. In 1621, the Kingdom of Scotland gave Sir William Alexander a charter for Nova Scotia; however, the claims were surrendered to the French in 1632. Smaller waves of immigration occurred around 1720, such as those recruited by the Hudson's Bay Company travelling out west. However, Scottish immigration spiked between 1770 and 1815 when about 15,000

Highlanders arrived in Canada, mainly settling in the Maritimes and Upper Canada. These migrants left Scotland for several reasons, such as the rising cost of rent and agricultural restructuring that made the former tacksman class redundant. The Scottish settlers were mainly Gaelic speaking, and by the early nineteenth century, Gaelic was the third most common European language spoken in Canada. Their distinct cultural traditions, such as languages and highland games, continue to be practiced today. Scottish immigration to Canada continued to rise in the nineteenth century; between 1815 and 1870, about 170,000 Scottish colonists arrived in Canada. This group was a mixture of Highlander and Lowlander cultures. The Highland Scots were undergoing yet another clearance from their land. Their economy had crumbled due to a recession after the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars, and overcrowded crofting communities were suffering, especially when the Highland Potato Famine struck in the mid-1800s, resulting in landlords forcibly and often brutally evicting a selection of tenants and paying a small fare to send them to Canada. The Lowland Scots were also undergoing economic troubles, and with rising rent prices, they immigrated to Canada for a better life.

During this time, Kirkwall was founded. In 1832, Robert Dickson and Thomas Watson settled in the area with their families, and the Stewart, Kier, Riddle, and Frier fam-



Kirkwall Congregation members c. 1930.

From our collection, Photo #834

ilies later joined them. These colonists were primarily from Lowland Scotland and the Scottish border. Commonly, the Scottish settled near their fellow countrymen to continue fostering their cultural identity. This was most likely the case for Kirkwall as it was initially dubbed 'Little Scotland.' The settlement began with a large log house that would shelter all six families while they constructed their homes on their properties. By 1833, 'Little Scotland' practically tripled in size with the arrival of the McQueens, Innes, Fairgrievies, Wallaces, Roberts, Colcleughs, Johnstons, Jamiesons, McKerlies, Scotts, McCartys, and McNabs of Scotland; the Parkers of England, and the McKnights, McColls, Kernighans, Cowies, and Stevensons from Northern Ireland.

To maintain their identity, Scottish settlers were keen to establish organizations and construct struc-

tures, especially schools and churches. From 1833 to 1835, the log home was used for public worship. The barn on Lot 15, on the north side of the seventh concession, was occasionally utilized as a makeshift church. The congregation was overseen by the Reverend Thomas Christie of the Orkney Islands, the first minister sent to Canada by the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Christie arrived in Canada around 1832 and settled in West Flamborough in 1833, taking over from Reverend George Sheed, who had passed away on November 26th, 1832. While in West Flamborough, Christie reorganized the congregation, hoping to add 'preaching stations' to small communities like Kirkwall. As expressed in a letter back to Scotland in 1834, Christie noted that the people of 'Little Scotland' were attempting to save money to purchase a lot and erect a log church; however,



Unveiling of the cairn marking the site of the original log church, 1933.

From our collection, Photo #5161

many did not have any money. It was in 1835 that Christie received his first payment from these pioneers, but it was a small sum. In that same year, the first log church was constructed on an acre of land that was donated by Robert Dickson. Outside of farmland and the church, there was a general store and a blacksmith shop in 'Little Scotland.' As a result, the church continued to be the social and cultural centre of the settlement.

In 1838, Reverend James Roy took over from Christie, who wanted to focus on the West Flamborough congregation and resigned from the small parish. Another interesting moment occurred in 1838, the first recorded instance of the name 'Kirkwall' in church records. Kirkwall is the capital of Orkney in Scotland. It has been speculated that the community was christened by Christie, especially since he grew up in Orkney and the first time this

name is recorded is in church records. Kirkwall derives its name from the Old Norse word *Kirkjuvággr*, which translates to 'Church Bay.' The term 'Kirk' is also a Northern English and Scots term defined as either 'church' or 'the national church of Scotland as opposed to the Church of England or the Episcopal Church of Scotland.' The new name continued the tradition of Scottish nomenclature but also emphasized the church and its central role in the community and its Scottish identity.

As Kirkwall and the congregation continued to expand, there needed to be a new building. In 1843, the log house was sold to the school commission for sixty dollars on the condition that the building could still be used every Sunday for church. This arrangement occurred from 1843 to 1848, when a new stone church was constructed. This was initially a one-storey structure,

but in 1900, a second storey was added. At the dedication of the new stone church, Christie visited Kirkwall for the last time. He expressed his happiness at how much the congregation had grown, contrasting their new structure to when they worshipped in a log home.

When the pioneers first came to Kirkwall, religion provided comfort in trying times, especially considering having to adjust to Canadian weather, the hard work of trying to develop the land, poverty, the fear and stress of living in a new land, and the upheavals that had occurred in Scotland. The church also allowed new settlers to feel like they belonged in their community, especially as they could maintain cultural traditions, and members often helped new families adjust to Canada. Since its dedication, the Kirkwall Presbyterian Church has continued to expand. It has housed and runs several organizations and clubs, including missionary societies. The church continues to be an essential aspect of social life in Kirkwall. As well, the church still has a strong Scottish identity despite the diversity of Kirkwall. Similar to other ethnic groups in Canada, Scottish Canadians primarily focus on highly visible markers of their cultural heritage, such as the Highland Games in Fergus, clans, and tartans. For the Kirkwall Church, they hold their annual Scotch Supper, typically on the second Sunday of November, an event that began in the early 1900s and features Scottish-inspired live entertainment and Scottish cuisine,

such as haggis. They also celebrate 'Robbie Burns Day' on January 25th, a celebration of the life of the Scottish poet. This usually takes the form of a supper involving plenty of whiskey, Scottish food, bagpipes, and recitals of Burns' iconic work.

As the centuries have passed, communities have expanded and changed, leaving little traces of what they once were. For Kirkwall, their church stands tall in West Flamborough, serving as a beacon for social activity and cultural heritage in the com-

munity. To celebrate its centennial, a large cairn was unveiled to the public in 1933; the memorial was dedicated to the pioneers of Kirkwall and was built from local granite boulders that would have been cleared from the land when it was developed in 1833. Despite their hardships, the settlers of Kirkwall were able to construct a rich legacy for the community. The colonists who arrived in 1832 could find and build their version of Scotland into the landscape, even if it was 'little.'



Rev. W.E. Smyth, 1952

Copyright Hamilton Public Library, 2011

FOUND IN THE FONDS

To celebrate the triumphs and ease the losses of kids' and grandkids' summer softball, we've looked back at the records we hold of Flamborough baseball past. The Waterdown Intermediate B Softball team won the Ontario Amateur Softball Assoc. championship in 1950. Dan Fawcett, pitcher of the team, was scouted by USA's Pittsburgh Pirates for \$50 per week, but turned it down in favour for his job at Dofasco. 1968 seems to have been a lucky year for Flamborough

teams: a Freelon men's team won the O.R.S.A. Senior Softball Championship and the boys' Flamboro Centre team won a children's division.

Sport team photos are a fantastic record—not only for their proof of community members, but as a way of reminiscing on and humanizing the past. Children and adults alike will continue to participate in these events, just as they did decades ago.

Right: Neil Robertson Shaver's baseball uniform, Strabane, c. 1930s



Above: Waterdown girls' baseball team, 1925.

From our collection, Photo #2893



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 over 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.

As always, a huge focus of our volunteers is continuing to catalogue our holdings. Our three summer students made a dent in the boxes of clip-pings and the rolls of negatives, and Lyn continues where they left off. She also writes a monthly column for Flamborough Today called Then and Now—keep an eye out!

Bob Lalonde and Bob Thomas continue to research local veterans in hopes of completely compiling the existing records.

Visits from Johnathan Vance have brought five more boxes into our collection. William Reid and Peter Vance's photography equipment (including a 1910 Kodak!) will be included in a local photography exhibit

coming later this year. This exhibit promises to be really interesting so hopefully everyone will be able to come to the library to check it out.

Currently in the Archives we have a 'mini exhibit' of photos and items from the Waterdown Centennial year 1978-1979. Come and walk down memory lane. Did you have a t-shirt or one of the hats? How about a pen, or a beer stein. Do you still have a coffee mug with the water-wheel logo? We'd love to hear your stories, and what you remember from that yearlong celebration.



"Life is short. Do something that matters."

- Stephen King

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 is September yet again, meaning it's time for membership renewals! Membership runs from September to August annually, and helps support our everyday operating costs. Members receive this newsletter, reminders of our monthly speakers, and the knowledge that you're directly supporting the preservation of our history.

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



Hewins' barn raising, Mountsberg 1909. Our collection, Photo #726



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 wish 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.

DONATIONS

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



3,864



631



65



38

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



Our blog posts featured interesting buildings and people throughout Flamborough.

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.

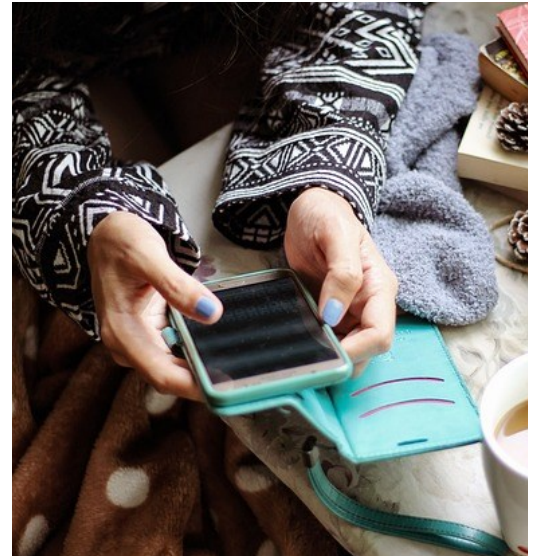
Once again, and as always:

Thanks to all for your support!

Much of August was spent sharing less of our own content and more examining how else to reach out to the public through cyberspace.

We continue sharing older heritage papers every Friday, which are met with varying degrees of popularity. It seems our followers more enjoy a post including interesting photos to draw them in to the subject matter.

As important as our online presence is, it takes time and effort in the real world. We must also examine in the upcoming year if we continue with the approach we've had or pivot with new and exciting ways of making sure we're known in the community, provided we have enough volunteers willing to put in the work. Feedback and help is always welcome!



CUSTOMER COPY **JUMBO VIDEO**

JUMBO VIDEO, WATERLOON
TEL: (416) 685-2118

CASH TRANSACTIONS CASH JANICE INVOICE NO. 612723
3-82-98 8106

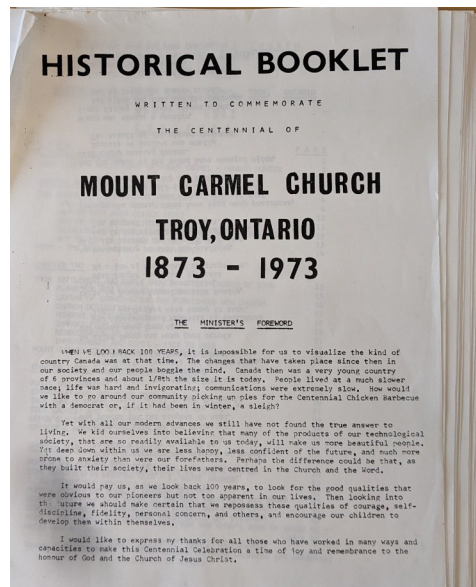
CODE	F	DESCRIPTION	INV. NO.	TYPE	QTY.	PRICE	AMOUNT	DEPOSIT	DATE DUE
832974	V	SLIPSTICK INTO DARKNESS		SELL	1	4.99	4.99		
839370	V	KARATE KILLER		SELL	1	4.99	4.99		
WELCOME TO JUMBO VIDEO !!									
FEBRUARY NEW RELEASES**AIR FORCE ONE; G.I. JANE; DEVIL ADVOCATE; THE EDGE; EXCESS BAGGAGE; (SUNG RELATED); BOO BURGERS; MOST WANTED; MAD CITY; THE WATERMANS; CHILLER CARE; BRIZZLY MOUNTAIN; PROSPECTY II; DISNEY'S HERCULES BELLE'S MAGICAL WORLD; BUGS-BUNNY/ROAD-RUNNER-THE MOVIE ERNEST IN THE ARMV;*****							14.97		
							SUBTOTAL	14.97	
							TAX	1.28	
							TOTAL	17.22	CASH
MAR 3RD-DISNEY RELEASES 45TH ANNIV. EDITI. OF PETER PAN							DEPOSIT	1.78	

Treasures from the Archives



*Exterior of
the church,
1984.*

*From our
collection,
photo #859*



*“It’s a hundred years
since the birthday /
Of the Church called
Mount Carmel, in
Troy / Let us think of
the good times and
bad times / So full of
sadness and joy.”
— Mount Carmel
Centennial*

Last month we received a transfer from the Local Archives and History at Hamilton Public Library that contained many interesting pieces. One part of this donation is a 46 page history of the Mount Carmel United Church in Troy, which was put together for its centennial in 1973. The building was sold in June 2021, and has been converted to a Uyghur mosque. The congregation still meets at the Women’s Institute next door.

Methodist Episcopal church services first began in Troy in the 1830s, as part of the Beverly Circuit. Reverend Stoney would travel by horseback to Troy and other communities. Services were held in the Mulholland’s log house in Troy, until 1844 where the first frame church was built. Plans for a new brick church arose in October 1872 and the cornerstone was placed June 1 1873. The bricks were purchased for \$6 per 1000, from

Samuel Wood of the village. A Ladies’ Committee was first formed to fundraise for furniture. They continued to fundraise for the church, keep records, and hold events like the annual “Birthday Tea.”






Beyond invaluable records, this history also contains more personal anecdotes—like a playful jab at an apparently clumsy family in the notes for purchasing dishes, and poetry about the church and congregation.

*Interior of
the church,
1984.*

*From our
collection,
Photo
#6063*



ARCHIVES ACTIVITY - AUGUST

	VISITORS	36
	CALLS	5
	E-MESSAGES	83
	ITEMS CATALOGUED	186
	ACQUISITIONS	4
	VOLUNTEER HOURS	182

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

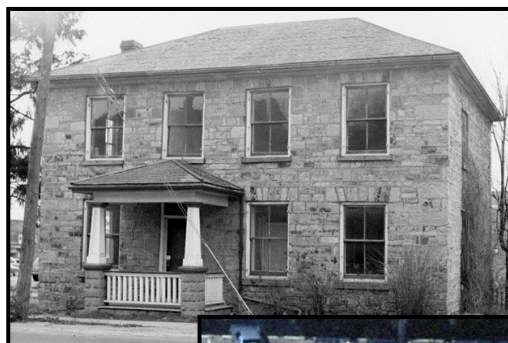
Four Corners—Then and Now

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist

Every village has its ‘four corners’. Waterdown fires in 1906, 1915 and 1922 ensured that most of the commercial structures in the village core burned, with the exception of the buildings on the four corners of Mill Street and Dundas Street. These have remained essentially unchanged due to their stone construction. However three of the four corners of Main Street and Dundas Street have seen several structures through the years, reflecting the changing social needs.

On the NW corner the Kirk Hotel has been a constant presence, surviving all of the fires due to luck, wind direction, and the presence of a stream

The SW corner retained a residential feel until 1961. The exact construction date of the large stone house is unknown but it is visible in a



Attridge House, 1960.

Flamborough Archives. Photo credit: Peter Vance.



The Kirk House, date unknown. Below: The Royal Coachman, Google Streetview photo. 2023

in the back yard which now runs beneath the parking lot.



Originally built in 1888, it has remained virtually unchanged for over 130 years. The hotel portion is no longer used but the pub remains a favourite gathering spot. Many local youth fondly remember spending time there – when they shouldn’t have!

Royal Bank c. 1965.

Flamborough Archives. Photo credit: ‘Pip’ Allen

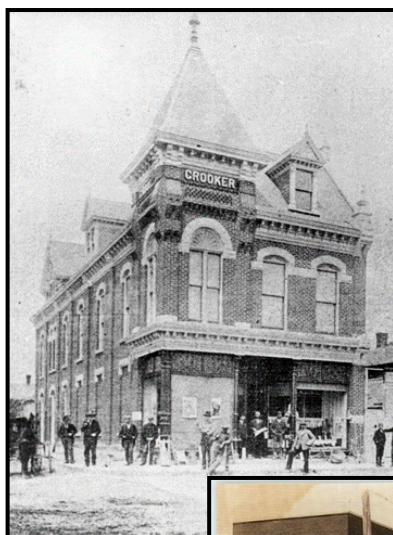


in a postcard photo dated 1908. It was demolished in 1961 to make way for the new Royal Bank building. The branch opened in October 1962. The transfer of bank contents from the old branch (which now houses Pickwick Books) was done by pickup truck, accompanied by several gun toting guards. The branch, with a staff of 10, was touted as ‘a new modern air conditioned space with large areas of glass, blending with the façade and the imposing entrance.’ The branch has since been expanded to the east, removing the awkward sloped parking spaces on Main Street South.

On the NE corner, businesses have been associated with mainly two names – Crooker and Langford.

In 1853, Francis Crooker started a dry goods and grocery business in Waterdown. W.O. Sealey also

operated a banking business in the same premises and lived above the store. In 1887 burglars broke in, used explosives to open the



safe and took off with drawers from the safe, accompanied by gunshots fired by Mr. Sealey. After this, Frederick W. Crooker built a massive three-and-a-half storey building on the corner which was

described as 'one of the finest mercantile buildings ever to be



found in rural Ontario'. It contained a general store, drug store, post office, a large community hall and public library. It survived the 1906 fire, but was destroyed in May 1915.

A much smaller building was then erected, occupied briefly by Alf Dale grocery until it too was destroyed by yet another fire in 1922. Mr. Dale rebuilt, but sold the building to Wilf Langford in 1923. Langford's Pharmacy remained in that location until 1988 when it moved into a site in the Sobey's Plaza. It is fondly remembered for the virtually unchanged store front, the soda fountain, and friendly staff. The building is now home to Second Time Around.

The SE corner has seen the most change through the years. Orley B. Griffin operated a grocery store on the corner for several years, rebuilding after the 1915 fire but not after the 1922 fire.

Responding to the increasing number of automobiles, L & H Garage was built on the corner.

Opened in January 1930, it included gas pumps, towing and repair service, and a diner.

Over the years the site stayed an automotive corner, being home to Messecar Garage, a Volkswagen dealership and an Esso Station.



Flamborough Archives photos, Google Streetview. September 2011.

For years in the early 2000s, the site was a vacant lot until the present commercial building was constructed in 2009. Echoing the brick and stone heritage of the village, the cornerstone of the building was the Browne Dog Coffee Shoppe and it revitalized the area. Now housing the Copper Kettle Café along with several other businesses, this building restores the multi use storefronts which originally lined this block and helps to bring back the 'village feel' so many residents remember.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Like everyone else we are getting back into the fall routine. Vacations are over, children are back in school and activities are ramping up.

We have a great roster of speakers lined up for this coming year and we hope to see many of you out in person at our meetings, even though we hope to have them all available on Zoom as well as in person.

If you haven't seen it, please try to come to the library to see our current exhibit 'Striking Up Business' based on several of the matchbooks we have in the Archives.

Coming up in the new year we will have a photography exhibit that we are really looking forward to putting together. Stay tuned for more information about that—and a contest.

As always, we are looking for new Board members or people to help on committees. We are trying to keep heritage and history alive in our community but the small core group of 'doers' is getting tired. We need YOU!

Chris Rivait, President



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

OFFICERS 2024-2025

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

The Burlington Historical Society - www.burlingtonhistorical.ca.

The Dundas Valley Historical Society - www.dundashistory.ca

The Grimsby Historical Society - Grimsby Historical Society.

The Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society- www.hamiltonheritage.ca

The Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society -

Head of the Lake Historical Society

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