



# Heritage Happenings

<b>02</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Heritage Paper</b>	<b>Volunteer Spotlight</b>	<b>Online Updates</b>	<b>Threads through the Past</b>	<b>Message from the President</b>
<i>The first inhabitants of Flamborough</i>	<i>Current projects and more!</i>	<i>Recap blog posts, Facebook, and more!</i>	<i>The Drummond Collection</i>	<i>Plus other local society websites &amp; our contact info</i>



## November Meeting

*The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society will feature a presentation on the Hamilton & Scourge Historical Site by Christopher Redford, City of Hamilton Heritage Presentation Co-Ordinator. **Thursday Nov. 28 2024, 8:00 pm Grace Anglican Church, Waterdown***

The Hamilton and Scourge connection is that both ships were merchant ships were owned by James Crooks brought into service prior and his brother William, of the War of 1812. They cap-sized in Lake Ontario and are Crooks Hollow. Christopher will present the history of the ships as well as first-hand accounts of the discovery of water. The Flamborough and investigation of them.

### *Heritage Paper #322*

This year we explore the various origins of Flamborough inhabitants. This month's Heritage Paper starts at the beginning—with the Neutral Confederacy.

### *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?

### *Treasures from the Archives*

Sunday School used to be an important part of life for the majority of people. This sample of post cards shows just how important it was that students attend on a regular basis.

# HERITAGE PAPER

## The Ethnicity of a Community:

## The Beginning—the Neutral Confederacy

Tess Moffat, Archives Summer Student

*First in the series under the theme “Ethnic backgrounds of Flamborough.”*

Flamborough has a long and lengthy history of settlement, dating well before Alexander Brown arrived in 1805; after all, the so-called ‘New World’ was only ‘new’ for a select few. Indigenous Peoples were here well before the Vikings landed on the east coast or Christopher Columbus ‘sailed the ocean blue’. The earliest archaeological evidence of occupation within Flamborough, remnants of tools and other artifacts, are dated anywhere from 9000 to 3000 BCE and were discovered in a farmer’s field south of Dundas Street East in Waterdown.

The history of Flamborough’s occupation does not exclusively include European colonizers; for various Indigenous Peoples, including the Neutral Confederacy, Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Flamborough and the various locations within its borders were places



*Part of the map drawn c. 1646. it is drawn from the point of view of the Huron, not the French. The original map is with the Royal Navy Archives, Taunton, England.*

of cultural and religious significance that were essential for, and shaped their practices. The area was initially occupied by the Neutral Confederacy, a name given to the group by Samuel de Champlain in 1615 on account of their peace with the neighbouring Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat. Historians have argued ‘Chonnonton’ was the name the Neutral used for

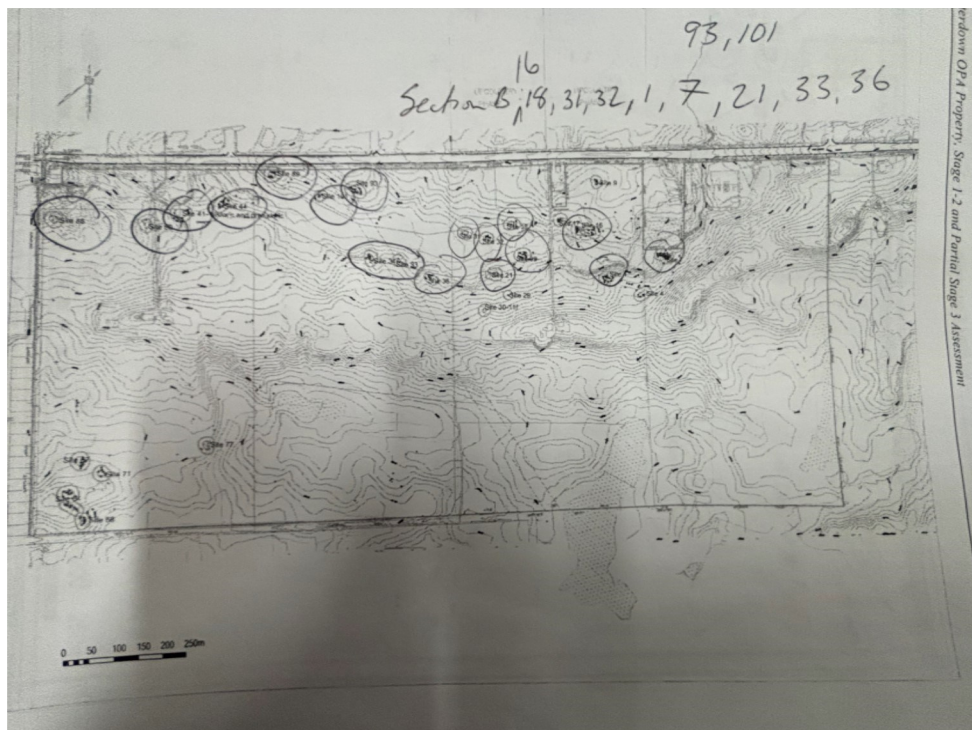
themselves; however, this is contested as ‘Chonnonton’ could also refer to a specific nation.

The occupation of the area by the Neutral has been traced concretely to around 6000 BCE. There were several villages and settlements near Freelton, forming the Spencer-Bronte Creek Cluster, which is composed of the Hamilton, Bogle I and II, Freelton, and Shaver Hill sites to name a



few. The earliest site was assigned a duration of occupation between 1615 and 1632 CE. So, why did they choose Flamborough?

There were most likely cultural and practical reasons at play in their decision to settle in the area. Lake Medad, located within the current day Hidden Lake Golf Club, was theorized to have once housed a Neutral village on its shores, which is a strong possibility considering the amount of archaeological material discovered on the shore. As well, the land contributed to their way of life. The Neutral primarily relied on farming, hunting, fishing, using foraging and fishing as supplements. The Neutral cultivated maize, squash, and beans, not to mention herbs and plants like tobacco. There was a preference for soils with excellent drainage, such as specific varieties of loam. Another essential component is the proximity to wooded areas; trees could provide certain crops, such as berries and nuts, and building materials for structures. The Neutral had a preference for Eastern White Cedars in particular and elm and cedar trees growing in low, moist, and heavy soils for their bark; this would explain the proximity of the Neutral to areas like the Beverly Swamp.



*Location of Indigenous items found in Mountainview Heights area, Waterdown.*

These wetlands were also exceptionally well-stocked with wildlife, especially deer and beaver.

The Neutral's occupation of the land concluded in the early 1650s. The Iroquois Wars, which has also been dubbed the Beaver Wars, were between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, who were allied with the English and Dutch, and the Huron-Wendat Confederacy, who were partnered with the French. Each confederacy was composed of different peoples; for example, the Haudenosaunee were composed of the Seneca, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Mohawk, and Tuscarora, who joined in the early eighteenth century. Considering the

alternative name of this conflict, one can infer as to what caused it: furs. The land could not meet European demands, which resulted in trespassing into other nations' territories to secure animal pelts and attempts to expand territorial holdings. Violent competition plagued the fur trade. While raids initially started earlier, conflict broke out around 1647, and, after two years, the Wendat Confederacy were pushed from their land. Some Huron-Wendat fled into Quebec, while others were adopted by the Haudenosaunee and Neutral. The Neutral, whose numbers had been significantly depleted, especially as a result of plague, came into conflict

with and were dispersed by the Haudenosaunee in 1651, fleeing to the south or west or even joining forces with the Haudenosaunee. By 1653, only a few villages remained.

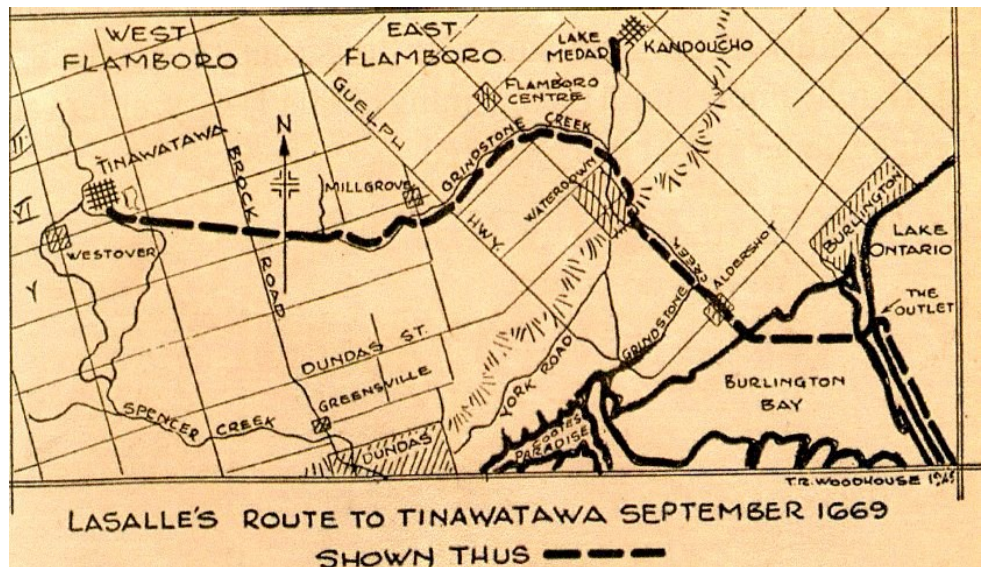
Following the Beaver Wars, the Seneca moved in; not only were the established qualities of the land, including its potential for hunting and agriculture, recognized but also the proximity to important trade routes was highly valued.

Tinawatawa, a Seneca village, is believed to have been located somewhere in the Beverly Swamp, controlling the portage route between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie that ran from Burlington Bay to the Grand River. The Haudenosaunee occupation of Flamborough began mainly in the 1650s



*Professor Rick Hill of the Tuscarora Nation with the Dish With One Spoon Wampum, September 9, 2015.*

**Photo Credit: Nathan Tidridge**



*Possible location of Tinawatawa, drawn by T. Roy Woodhouse 1945*

but by the end of the seventeenth century, these settlements were no longer occupied. After the Beaver Wars, the Haudenosaunee fought against the Anishinaabe, specifically the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation; however, the bloody conflicts were resolved with the Dish with One Spoon Wampum, which advocated sharing the land and working together.

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation took up residence within Flamborough and the surrounding area; one group was centered around Burlington Heights and along the shoreline of Burlington Bay and Coote's Paradise and another lived along Bronte Creek and the Grand River. It is estimated that 100 to 150 Mississaugas lived in Flamborough throughout the eighteenth century.

According to a timeline constructed by Nathan Tidridge in his history of Flamborough, in the spring, they would gather in large numbers along the escarpment and plant corn alongside the Spencer, Grindstone, and Bronte Creeks. The Mississaugas would fish in the summer, gather berries and nuts and harvest the corn from the spring during autumn, and move inland to the wetlands around Flamborough to hunt.

The land also had spiritual significance to the Mississaugas. Waterfalls, pine trees, and caves, especially around the escarpment, were particularly revered, believing to house powerful spirits. As well, creatures, such as the mischievous Mamagwasewug, were spotted throughout Flamborough; a few were seen paddling a stone canoe





*Webster Falls, just one example of many waterfalls in the area.  
McMaster Gallery*

in Coote's Paradise. Interest in Flamborough depended on the sociopolitical atmosphere; for example, the Seneca, after taking over the land, were able to exercise control over portage routes, reflecting their interest and participation in the fur trade, especially considering how and when they secured that land. Wars and peace agreements opened up Flamborough to new people, who were just as interested in

the resources and opportunities provided by the land as the previous occupants.

Flamborough has a long history of settlement that is incredibly complex. While the pioneers were braving the 'unknown,' they were hardly the first to do so.

*Next issue—the Europeans arrive*



*Vecteezy.com*

## FOUND IN THE FONDS

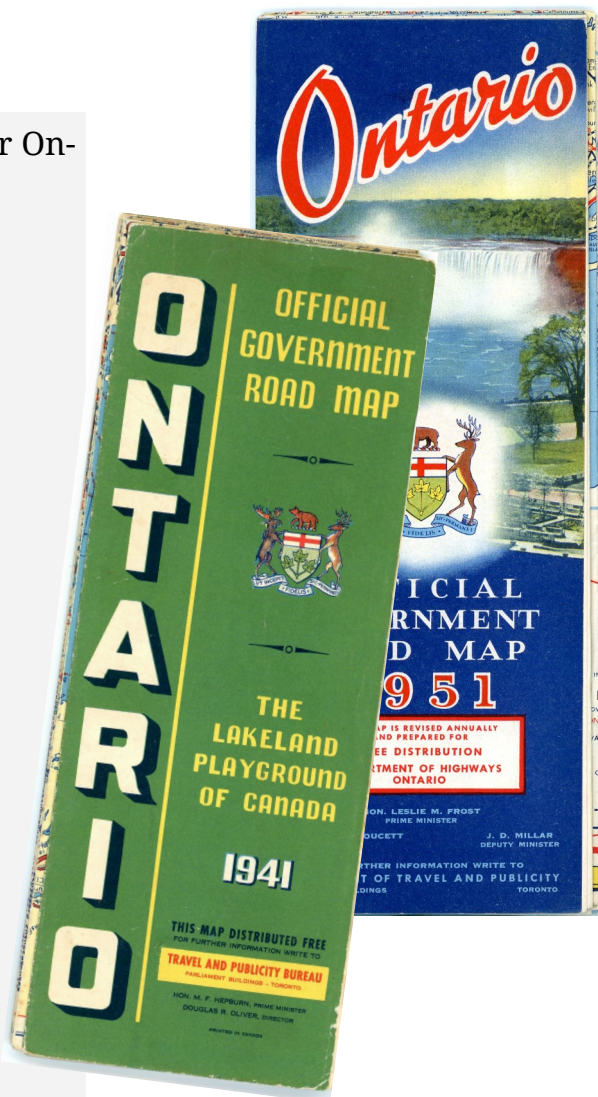
### MAPS - we have them!

Many people love maps—topographic maps, road maps, township maps, political boundary maps—each type fascinating for unique reasons. Our collection holds dozens of maps for the Townships in, and the County of, Wentworth, spanning over 150 years.

Although purchased several years ago, two of these maps have only recently been catalogued—1941 and 1951 Official Gov-

ernment Road Maps for Ontario. Far removed from today's Google Maps and GPS systems, these show a much simpler time—and surprises. Who knew we were known as the Lakeland Playground of Canada?

This 1941 map lists all of the lakes in Ontario, along with the dates of hunting and fishing seasons, types of game and fish, catch limits and license fees—not something expected on a road map.



# 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.

## NEW !!!

As part of our fundraising we are now selling Maple Syrup, made here in Flamborough at Winterhill Forest Farm. Pick some up at the Archives—a great holiday gift! \$14.00



# 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.



Unfortunately the Archives had to be closed for part of October due to the archivist being ill. We're glad Lyn is back!

We're welcoming new volunteers on board, including Claudia, Emelia, and Kyla. Claudia has been working on the Waterdown Review negative project. Twenty years of film reel

from the paper were donated, tightly rolled and sealed with masking tape. Unrolling and identifying the photos will be a worthwhile project!

Emelia will be helping Kim and Kyla with the photography exhibit and upcoming photo contest. The logistics are being ironed out regard-

ing prizes but we'll keep you updated.

Kim has liaised with the library and the Fred and Lois Guenther dollhouse will be on display in the Waterdown branch of the Hamilton Public Library. It was very popular when featured a couple of years ago!



*“Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else’s help.”*

**- Heather French Henry**



## 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



*Workers at the newly opened 'apple drying factory', Millgrove, 1920.  
From our collection, Photo #1631.*

**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 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 expendi-

tures, 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



**3,881**



**627**



**64**



**40**

We're always online - tap follow and drop a comment to say hi!



Our biweekly blog posts continue with articles "From the Vault".

## 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:

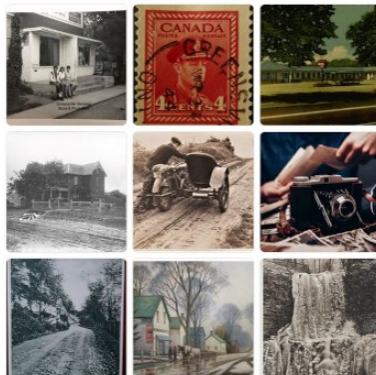
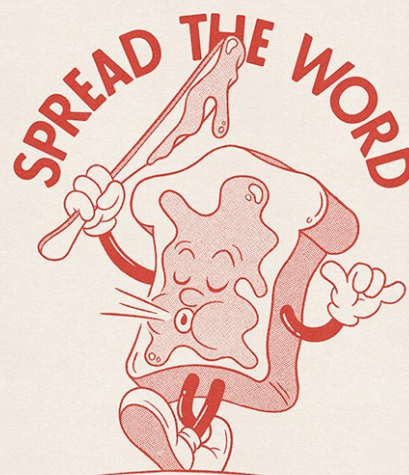
*Thanks to all for your support!*

Despite not being as active on our socials, folks are still finding us in various places online. Oftentimes this means more research projects, but those that reach out have been very generous in providing donations once we complete their requests. From out of town to out of country we're always happy to help.

We continue to browse and share relevant content, keeping in

mind other ways to reach the general public that are outside our own echo chamber of content.

As always, explore what we've shared. Share your own stuff - comment or message your memories or unseen photos. Think of us first - despite being active for over 50 years and online for a few decades there's many folk that still don't know about us. Spread the word!





# Treasures from the Archives

Our collection houses weird and wonderful things! One of the more unusual items is a collection of post cards which were sent by Sunday School teachers to students who were absent from Sunday School the previous week. A couple of them even have sections on the ‘address’ side for excuses—you entered your name and the reason you were absent and had to bring it with you the following week.



ARCHIVES ACTIVITY - OCTOBER		
	VISITORS	27
	CALLS	7
	E-MESSAGES	148
	ITEMS CATALOGUED	37
	ACQUISITIONS	10
	VOLUNTEER HOURS	160

# THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

## The Eager Collection

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist

Sometimes we receive a donation of several items relating to a single family or family member. Such is the case with our 'Eager Collection'. This consists of correspondence between members of the family through the years 1872—1974.

Benjamin Eager of Blessington, County Wicklow, Ireland and his second wife, Rebecca Culloden came to Upper Canada in 1837, settling in the Lowville area of Nelson Township.

His eldest son Joseph Culloden Eager, was a Lowville merchant in the 1850s before he moved with his wife Mary Tassie and children to Waterdown during the 1860s. In 1880 he purchased the large stone General Store on the south-east corner of Mill Street and Dundas Street that had been built by Ebenezer Culver Griffin in the 1820s.



PA-086516

Eager General Store 1924.

Photo Credit: Library & Archives Canada

The store remained in the family until it was sold to the Weeks family in 1924.

Joseph purchased property in 1871 and built an elegant two-storey house on Dundas Street, behind, and across the creek from the store.



Eager House, Dundas St. East.

Flamborough Archives photo

The photo above shows the house without the front porch, which was added several years later by Waterdown craftsman John Reid.



Eager House, Dundas St. East. 1977

Flamborough Archives photo

James Edward Eager, the second of three sons, lived in



Eager Family in front of their house.

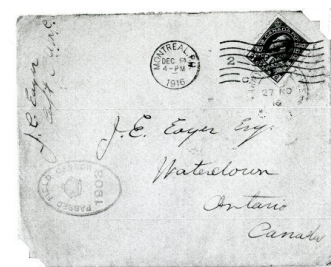
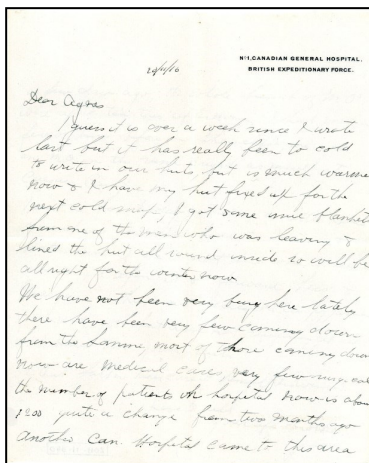
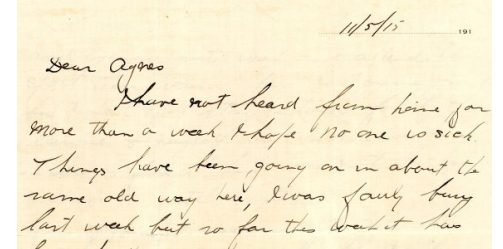
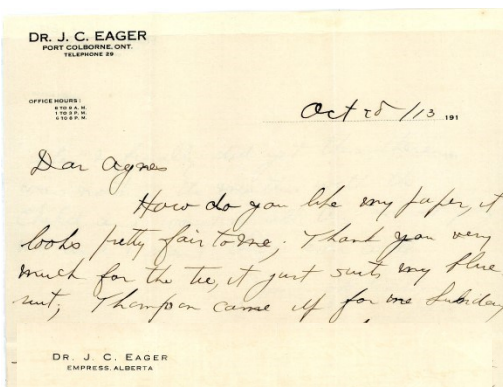
1910. Flamborough Archives photo

the house with his wife Agnes and their children Joseph, twins Mary and Agnes, Helen, Alfred and James.

His eldest son Joseph Culloden Eager became a doctor, practicing in Port Colborne, Ontario and Empress, Alberta before serving overseas in hospitals in England and France during WW I. During the war years he regularly wrote to his father and sisters in Waterdown. After the war he settled in Hamilton and specialized in obstetrics.

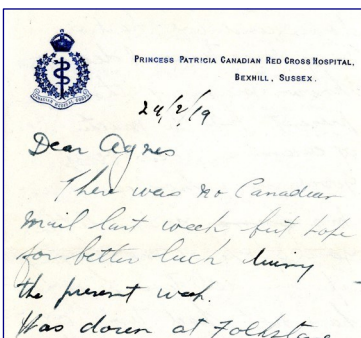
He was the only child of James Edgar Eager to marry, and he is buried with his wife in Grace Anglican Church Cemetery, Waterdown.





A LETTERFROM CAPT EAGER SERVING WITH No. CDN GENHOSP. 26/11/16 DEARFATHER,  
 HAVEJUSTCOME INFROMALONG WALK ALONG THE SHORE, THE TIDE WAS OUT AND THE WET SAND MADE GOOD FOOTING, THE SUNSETS HERE ARE SIMPLY GORGEOUS, I THOUGHT THEY WERE EXCEPTIONALLY FINE ON THE PRAIRIE BUT HERE THEY ARE MUCH FINER, ABOUT HERE IS A FAVOURITE HAUNT OF ARTISTS, ALTHOUGH JUST NOW WE DO NOTSEE MANY, THEY SAY THAT THE ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS ARE JUST RIGHT FOR PAINTING HERE.  
 I WASWALKING THROUGH THE LITTLE FISHING VILLAGE NEAR HERE LAST NIGHT & LOOKED IN ON AN OPEN DOOR & SAW A MAN STANDING ON A PILE OF FISH SPREADING SALT ON THEM & TURNING THEM OVER WITH A SHOVEL SO WENT TO WATCH HIM FOR A WHILE, THEY WERE HERRING & THEY WERE SALTING THEM TO PACK IN BARRELS LIKE WE GET AT HOME IN THE WINTER, I DONT THINK I WILL EAT ANY MORE HERRINGS FOR A WHILE.  
 ONE OF THE BOYS HERE CAPT MCGREGOR WAS UP WITH THE P. B. (PERMANENT BASE MEN) FOR SOME MONTHS & AND KNEW TOM PLINTOFF QUITE WELL BUT HAD NOT HEARD THAT HE HAD BEEN KILLED, HE SAID HE WAS IN THE BOMBING SECTION WHEN HE LEFT.  
 RECEIVED TWO MAILS YESTERDAY, I THINK THE PAPERS DO NOT GET LOST AS OFTEN HERE AS THEY DID IN ENGLAND.  
 LOVE TO ALL  
 YOUR AFF SON  
 JOE.

From the Princess Patricia Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Bexhill Sussex, in February 1919 he states that several of the officers went into hospital with the (Spanish) flu.

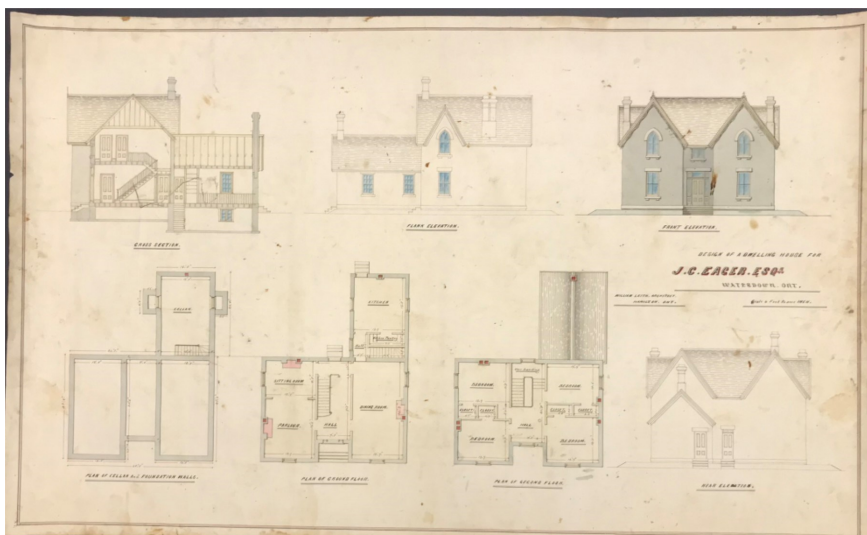


The letter to his father in November 1916 talks about walking along the shore and watching a man salting herring. He also mentions that he saw Capt. McGregor, who was from Waterdown.

The letters are not chatty but they all contain little bits of memories or experiences and give us a hint of bygone days.

Early letters from Dr. Joseph Eager to his sister Agnes show pride in his profession 'How do you like my paper, it looks pretty fair to me' as he shows off his letterhead. A letter dated November 5, 1915 brings in a piece of history 'We got quite a shock here when we heard that Lusitania had gone down our parson Mr. Goyer was on board but I see both he and his wife were saved.'

Later letters were sent from the various places he was stationed during the Great War. Dated November 20, 1916 from the No.1 Canadian General Hospital, British Expeditionary Force he writes that it had been too cold to write but he has his hut fixed up as he got more blankets and is ready for the next cold snap.



The Eager house was designed by a prominent Hamilton Architect William Leith and a copy of the drawing is in the Flamborough Archives. The house was recently designated as a Historic Property.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

This is our last newsletter of the year. We hope that you have found them interesting, and our monthly meeting speakers engaging. We try to entertain, educate and inform our members, and hopefully encourage more people to both join our Society and get enthused about local history.



With Christmas and the holiday season almost upon us, remember that we have several books for sale at the Archives that make great gifts. They are in stock—no need to pre-order—just come in and pick them up. And for an added sweet treat, we are now selling maple syrup made here in Flamborough at Winterhill Forest Farm. \$14 a bottle.

We hope to see you at our November meeting.

And don't forget to look for our next exhibit on Photography, coming in January.

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://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)

### 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 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

