

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Chair for 2022

Andrew Jacobson

Our 2022 AGM was held on March 7, 2023. The following reports were distributed - Chair, Curator and Secretary, as well as Financial Reports.

2022 was a busy year for us.

In 2022, all WTHHS meetings took place over Zoom.

In 2022 the WTHHS Historical Room was open to the public without Covid-19 restrictions.

Amy Herron returned as our recorder, and Fiona Gilbert now sends us our financial reports. We welcomed new members Sarah Austin and Shirley Hutton.

On April 26th Andrew and Nancy attended a Zoom meeting with Township Council during which they asked for the renewal of Nancy's curator contract, presented our plaque proposal and request for funds, as well as the proposed budget for 2022. All were approved.

On May 16th a Plaque Committee was formed to steer the Heidelberg Meadows Storyboard, Emancipation Day Plaque, and Dewar Bridge Plaque projects forward. The members were: Debbie Kroetsch, Peter van der Maas, Nancy Maitland, Dave Holzschuh and Andrew Jacobson.

On June 24th WTHHS participated in the Township of Wellesley Community Information Forum.

In September a survey was distributed to all members regarding the preferred way, days and times for our meetings. As a result of this it was determined that WTHHS meetings would be held via Zoom, the second Wednesday of January, March, May, September and November, at 2:00 pm.

Thank you to all members who responded to and participated in the survey.

On September 17th we had the unveiling of the Heidelberg Meadows Story Board. It was a great success. We had a great turnout. Tim Louis, MP for Kitchener-Conestoga, Carl Smit, Councilor of Ward 4, and multiple family members related to, and direct descendants of the Hahns were in attendance.

On November 9th our new Social Media Committee was formed, and spearheaded by our new member Sarah Austin.

In 2022 WTHHS logged 325 total volunteer hours.

Once again, many thanks to our members for their meeting attendance, ideas, and volunteer project work.

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Curator, 2022

Nancy Maitand

Acquire

Acquired twelve donations throughout the year:

- A digital copy of the Julie Schnurr's publication "R. Y. Fish of Linwood, 1835 – 1928"
- Colourized photos of Hawkesville school children
- Waterloo Region Hall of Fame certificate commemorating "Six Historic Entrepreneurs of Heidelberg"
- Research about and photographs of smokehouses and cider mills in the Heidelberg area
- Shoe, doll and other items found in the walls of a house in Linwood
- Brass musical instrument used by the Wellesley Brass Band
- Photo of the first Council of the Incorporated Village of Wellesley – 1962
- Several photos of the early village of Heidelberg, including building the school
- Eight sketches of the village of Heidelberg; drawn by Heidelberg Wagonmaker, Harry Koehler, (1898-1983)
- Salesman's copy of the book - "The Practical Home Physician and Encyclopedia of Medicine" which includes names of local residents who purchased the book
- Purchased an amusing postcard of Bamberg
- Purchased matchbook cover from Linwood Hotel

Arrange, Describe, Preserve

Maintained records for donations, catalogued and stored all new items.

Make Available

- Research questions about Rushes Cemetery, house history, and family history, town band, orphanage, Paradise Lake, Glaister family descendants
- Research for "Flash from the Past" article about the Wellesley Opera House which appeared in the *Record*
- Added a detailed "[Research Guide](#)" to our collection on our website
- Wrote five articles for *Embracing Change* magazine – our articles are well received and our photos were used twice on the cover
- Wrote two articles for the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette
- Wrote and distributed four newsletters to members
- Maintained and updated our [website](#). Statistics are only available for 10 months as follows:
 - 3247 users; 4032 sessions and 10,643 page views
- Maintained and updated our Instagram account (wellesleyhistory) which now has 356 followers

- Worked with our social media committee to increased information placed on our [Facebook](#) page
- Researched and wrote content for one storyboard and two historic plaques and worked with vendors to produce them. Arranged the unveiling ceremony of the storyboard in Heidelberg.
- Updated our membership form to reflect size of collection: 2200 photos; 2600 documents; 600 objects.

Heritage Committee

- Worked with a consultant who produced architectural descriptions of approximately 90 properties for possible inclusion in our register of non-designated properties of historical interest.
- Worked with then Planner, Geoff VanderBaaren to contact the owners of our nine designated properties to remind them of the terms of their designation agreements.

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Secretary, 2022

Nancy Maitland

Assistant Municipal Clerks continued to act as recorders of our meetings. January and February meetings were recorded by Lindsay Raftis; March, by Nancy Maitland; May, September and November by Amy Harron. We appreciate the support of our committee by township staff.

The Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society (WTHHS) met by Zoom 7 times in 2022. One meeting (April 25) was cancelled due to lack of quorum.