

## Minutes

### WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday February 11, 2019 – 10:00am**

Present: Carol Gregory, Dave Holzschuh, Andrew Jacobson, Beth Lealess, Nancy Maitland, Diane Peters, Garry Peters

Regrets: Joanna Kipfer, Ross Kelterborn, Peter van der Maas, Jean Herrgott

1. Meeting called to order – 10:03am – Nancy
2. Delegations – None
3. Annual General Meeting
  - Secretary's Annual Report 2018 (attached)
  - Curator's Annual Report 2018 (attached)
  - Report of the Chair 2018 (attached)
  - 2018 Financial Report (attached)

Motion to approve all reports – (Carol/Diane) passed

#### 5. Election of officers

-Nominations were opened to the floor. There were no additional nominees

-The three nominees for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary were acclaimed.

- Nancy Maitland – Chair
- Dave Holzschuh – Vice Chair
- Beth Lealess – Secretary

#### 6. Meeting adjourned at 10:17am

## WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Regular meetings of the Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society were held nine times in 2018: January 22<sup>nd</sup>, February 26<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup>, September 10<sup>th</sup>, and November 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition a special meeting to discuss the work of the Friends of Wellesley Pond group was held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The date, time and location of meetings are posted on the website and minutes posted after they are approved.

Items under discussion included possible designation of the Wellesley Pond and the Municipal Heritage Register.

Notable acquisitions during the year included additional photographs by Charles Ottmann Jr. and a print of Redgauntlet, a horse owned by Jacob Meyer, a prominent earlier settler of Wellesley township. A number of items were scanned and added to the website. Work was also done on reorganizing and rehousing the photograph collection.

Marketing initiatives included participation in Wilmot Heritage Day at New Dundee Community Centre in February; designing a new membership form; sending out email newsletters to members every three months; adding a new section to the website called *Wellesley Roots* where local family histories can be posted; setting up a display at the Community Information Forum at the Township office on June 22<sup>nd</sup>; sponsoring a young people's history prize at the Wellesley Fall Fair; setting up a table outside the library during the Apple Butter and Cheese Festival in September; sponsoring a public meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> which featured a talk by Kevin Thomas on the topic of personal hygiene from a historical perspective (*Outhouses, B.O. and Bad Breath*); and publishing articles in November and December in a new publication for seniors in the townships entitled *Embracing Change*.

The Historical Room was open the last Saturday of each month, except December as well as on Family Day in February and during the Apple Butter and Cheese Festival in September. Information has also been posted on the Society website, Instagram, and in local newspapers. Website statistics averaged around 1000 page views/month.

Historical Society funds continued to be managed by the Township treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Peters, Secretary  
January 17, 2019

# Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society

## 2018 Annual General Meeting – Report of the Chair

The Secretary's report has documented most of our activities in 2018 very well so I won't repeat them here. Many thanks to Diane for her reports and faithful service as our secretary for many years.

### Some thoughts on 2018

Our **proposal to designate** the Wellesley Mill Pond under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act was unsuccessful because the pond's owner, the Grand River Conservation Authority, declined to accept it. While buildings and properties may be designated without the owner's consent we decided not to take that action.

We contributed to **two new publications** about our collection and activities:

- “Embracing Change” – a publication for seniors of Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich Townships in which an article will appear every third month;
- “Community Connects” - a short article about our activities will appear once a month in a new section of the *New Hamburg Independent*.

We welcomed four new members and look forward to seeing them at meetings and hearing their views. Many thanks to our members who worked **577 volunteer hours** in 2018. Of special note are Dave Holzschuh who catalogued his own family history donation and has been working on the directories project; and Andrew Jacobson who joined us in the fall and immediately began to volunteer in the historical room. Thank you all!

We offered our fair prizes again in 2018, with only one entry. We will try to improve on that response in 2019.

We nominated Wellesley photographer, Charles Ottman jr. for induction into the **Waterloo Region Hall of Fame**. His nomination was one of three accepted into the Community Pioneer / Builder category. The results will be announced to the public in April.

I participated on a UW and Region of Waterloo sponsored committee to identify **cultural heritage landscapes** in Wellesley and Wilmot townships.

### Plans for 2019

We will pursue recognition of the pond's historical importance by having it named a **Regionally Significant Cultural Heritage Resource (RSCHR)** under the *Regional Implementation Guideline: Conserving Regionally Significant Cultural Heritage Resources*. To do this we will work with Township staff and the Region's Heritage Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC). We will also add the pond to our Heritage Register. We must complete our Heritage Register this year!

# Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society 2018 Annual General Meeting – Report of the Curator

## Acquire

We acquired about 12 items or collections of items relating to the history of Wellesley Township. Of particular note were several scanned collections from Julie Schnnur of Linwood, including a searchable collection of Linwood news items from the *Waterloo Chronicle* from 1868 to 1952.

Dave Holzschuh has been working on a compilation of many years of business directories and gazetteers, which yield important land ownership information. This is a wonderful addition to our collection.

## Arrange, Describe, Preserve

I re-housed the photograph collection into three sizes of envelopes to make better use of space and resources. Envelopes freed up by this project will be used to re-house part of the collection which is currently being stored in acidic folders.

In addition to the Object and Photo Database, I created two more databases in our collection management software: research files compiled during the writing of the *Maple Leaf Journal*, and LACAC / Heritage files consisting of house and village histories.

I am writing a procedure manual so others will be able to access the collection.

## Make Available

I provided **research assistance** to 21 people interested in their connection to the township, usually family history, house history and land ownership.

I made great progress in **digitizing** some of the older, handwritten records in our collection and a few of the records in the Township Office, for a total of about 4100 pages of new research material. I plan to have this on our website and available for study in our Historical Room.

### *Digital Records Now Available for Research*

- Board of Health Committee Minutes, 1885-1960
- Light and Power Commission Minutes, 1917-1965
- Police Village Minutes (Wellesley), 1908-1961
- Police Villages Ledger, (Wellesley, St. Clements, Hawkesville), 1915-1925
- S. S. #10 - Bamberg School Expenditures, 1911-1946
- S. S. #10 - Bamberg School Minutes and Accounts, 1859-1933
- S. S. #16 - School Visitors Book (includes S. S. #16 Annual Meetings), 1853- 1933
- Telephone System Expenditures, 1919-1930
- Telephone System Minutes, 1919-1961
- Women's Institute Minutes, 1919-2008
- Marriage Register – Hawkesville Presbyterian Church, 1897-1954
- Linwood Methodist Church Circuit Minutes, 1903-1920
- *Diamond Jubilee of the Diocese of Hamilton, with a Complete History of Waterloo County, 1856-1916*, by Theobald Spetz.

I will continue to add material to our website, including other collections digitized in 2018, and keep track of the number of visitors and page views every month.

### 2018 Web Statistics – [www.wellesleyhistory.org](http://www.wellesleyhistory.org)

Month	# users	# new users	# page views	# pages/visit	% new visitors	% returning visitors
1/31/18	234	215	1243	3.85	84	16
2/28/18	330	311	1711	3.95	84	16
3/31/18	221	200	977	3.49	86	14
4/30/18	216	194	803	3.19	83	17
5/31/18	305	292	946	2.82	90	10
6/30/18	295	275	895	2.62	88	12
7/31/18	283	268	812	2.55	90	10
8/31/18	294	274	896	2.64	86	14
9/30/18	250	234	877	2.82	87	13
10/31/18	279	267	730	2.18	86	14
11/30/18	220	209	633	2.49	87	13
12/31/18	210	204	860	3.5	90	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3137</b>	<b>2943</b>	<b>11383</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>2018 average</b>	261	245	948	3	87	13

### Plans for 2019

I will continue the digitization project with council minutes and tax assessment rolls currently held in the Township Office as well as early assessment rolls held in the Waterloo Region Archives.

I would like to create a list of Wellesley Township Council members on our website, with photos where possible.

I will be offering training to WTHHS members on our collection management software so they can assist visitors with their research.

New displays are planned. Articles for “Embracing Change” and “Community Connects” will be continued.

## Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society

### Financial Reports 2018

Our finances are ably managed by Theresa Bisch, Treasurer of the Corporation of the Township of Wellesley. Reports for the Historical Society and Heritage Committee have been provided by her. Amounts are current as at November 30, 2018.

#### Historical Society Financial Report

<b>Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cash	\$1,524.21
Koehler Estate Fund (cash)	\$51,668.58
Koehler Estate Fund (GIC)	\$300,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$353,192.79</b>

#### Heritage Committee Financial Report

<b>Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cash	\$1,525.92
GIC	\$6,799.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,324.81</b>

**Petty Cash - \$138.38**