

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Chair for 2021

Andrew Jacobson

Our 2020 AGM was held on February 15, 2021. The following reports were distributed - Chair, Curator and Secretary, as well as Financial Reports.

In 2021, all WTHHS meetings took place over Zoom.

In February, Karolyn Fournier was acclaimed to the role of Chair.

In April, Karolyn Fournier, Chair and Nancy Maitland, Curator, attended the Committee of the Whole/Council Zoom Meeting, where the 2021 WTHHS Budget was approved, and the Curator's contract for 2021 renewed. In addition, Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk notified WTHHS that the Township hired Saleem Sandhu as its new Treasurer.

In April we were fortunate to have the Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk of the Township assigned to act as our secretary. Amy Harron attended one meeting and Lindsay Raftis has been filling for Amy during Amy's maternity leave.

In July, Karolyn Fournier stepped down as Chair. As there were no new nominations for the position, I was acclaimed to the role.

In August, Nancy and I attended the Committee of the Whole/Council Meeting over Zoom, and my position as Chair was approved by Council.

Our Historical Room was closed to visitors January through September 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions, and reopened to visitors October 30, 2021, with new hours 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Visitors are required to show proof of full vaccination and wear masks. Staff and volunteers are required to adhere to Wellesley Township's ~~new~~ Covid-19 protocols and restrictions in order to be permitted on the premises.

In 2021 we welcomed 4 new members Robert Mayer, Robert Nyman, Pandora Wilhelm and Shirley Hutton to WTHHS.

There were several major projects in 2021. These included:

- An examination of software used by other museums for virtual displays, and resulted in using our existing software, InMagic for online visitors.
- New member Robert Nyman took many photos of local historic houses for a new section on our website Wellesley Then and Now.

- Longtime member Peter van der Maas and WTHHS developed and planned for the installation and display of a plaque, set to be located near Temperance Island in Hawkesville, commemorating the Emancipation Day Picnic of 1863.
- We were contacted by the engineers and township staff about the July rehabilitation of Bridge No. 5, otherwise known as the Dewar Bridge, on Chalmers Forrest Road. The rehabilitation would involve the removal of inscribed barriers from the bridge. The hope being to preserve the inscriptions and bridge information, perhaps with a plaque.

Many thanks to our members for their meeting attendance, ideas, and volunteer project work despite Covid-19 conditions and restrictions. In 2021 our members logged a total of 485.2 volunteer hours.

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Report of the Curator, 2021

Nancy Maitand

Acquire

We received 15 donations in 2021 and purchased 1 postcard.

Highlights include:

- Digital scan of real photo postcard of the first post office in Wellesley.
- Hawkesville related items including a videotape of Heritage Day 1990, a reenactment of a temperance meeting on Temperance Island. Also scans of newspaper articles about John Diefenbaker's, visit to his "ancestral" home in Hawkesville in 1965.
- Berdux and Heipel family items including the 1894 teaching certificate of Charles Heipel, family photos and three large, matted Denton photos of the Berdux meat store in Kitchener. Christmas 1925.
- A large and well researched history of the Stahle family, 1738-1939, one of the earliest families to settle in Wellesley village. Includes original photos as well as an original page from the family Bible.

Arrange, Describe, Preserve

I catalogued, photographed and processed all donated items.

Make Available

Historical Room - Due to Covid-19 restrictions, our historical room was open on only two Saturdays in 2021 – October and November. We implemented new hours of opening – 10 am – 1 pm.

Displays - I researched and mounted two displays -one about Crosshill the other about the Berdux family of Wellesley.

Virtual Exhibits - Andrew researched what other museum are using for virtual exhibits. We decided to stick with the digital platform we are already using and use PowerPoint to create [virtual exhibits](#). I have added two exhibits using research done for displays in the historical Room – "Places of Wordship in Wellesley Township" and "Crosshill Through the Lens."

Writing - I wrote 6 articles for *Embracing Change*, a free magazine for seniors; wrote or contributed to 9 articles for the *Wilmot Tavistock Gazette*, including their feature on "The Seven Wonders of Wellesley;" and 4 newsletters for members.

I contributed research about the [Wellesley Opera House](#) for the "Flash from the Past" column which appeared in The Record on December 3, 2021.

Historical Plaques – I provided draft text for two historical plaques which we hope to erect in 2022. One commemorates the 1863 Empanication Day picnic on Temperance Island near Hawkeville and the other honours the Hahn family after whom streets are named in the Heidelberg Meadows subdivision.

Social Media - I maintained our website www.wellesleyhistory.org adding minutes as they were approved by the committee and upcoming meeting dates. I redesigned the "[Wellesley Roots](#)" page where six family histories have been published. I created a new section called "[Wellesley Then and Now](#)" with the help of our

new member/volunteer, Robert Nyman. Robert matched photos in our collection with contemporary views of the same scenes. Robert also worked on improving information for some of our German books - correcting, translating, and transcribing existing catalogue entries.

Here are the monthly averages for our website compared to those of 2020:

	2021 Total	2021 Monthly Averages	2020 Monthly Averages
Number of users	3805	317	290
Number of Sessions	5249	437	364
Page Views	16,093	1342	1228

I also managed our Instagram account, [wellesleyhistory](https://www.instagram.com/wellesleyhistory), on which we have 314 followers, up from 259 last year. Many thanks to Beth Leales for adding information to our [Facebook](#) page as required.

I assisted with many family history research projects. Here is some feedback about our website and personal assistance:

Since starting this ancestry project back in April I have been able to solve many family mysteries because of your webpage.	Once again, I must say a huge thank you for your digitization efforts for the Wellesley History page. So much information to access, right at my fingertips!
I have found information ... in the council minutes online (very helpful and rare to have those digitized and online, so thank you very much!).	I really appreciate all the hard work your society does. It is wonderful to have so many of these records available online and that you are careful to maintain the cultural and historical data of Wellesley Township.

Built Heritage

I continue to work on the Non-Designated Heritage Register for presentation to Council in 2022. We paid Mrs. Margaret Rowell of Wilmot Heritage an honorarium for her help with the description of several properties. I scanned information sheets prepared by the LACAC in the 1970s and corresponding slides.

A Wellesley resident has requested that his house be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. I am researching the property and acting as go-between for the owner and the Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation.

Thanks to the generosity of Planning Director Geoff VanderBaaren, his Planning Co-op student, refreshed the information about our 9 [designated properties](#). One of the properties was renovated without permission of the Heritage Committee. Again, thanks to Geoff, the owner was contacted and reminded of their responsibilities.

Volunteer Hours – In addition to the 180 hours for which I am paid, I worked 284 volunteer hours.

WTHHS Secretary's Report

The Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society (WTHHS) met by Zoom nine times in 2021 with an average of nine members in attendance at each meeting. The WTHHS has 24 members, ~~which~~ 10 of whom attend meetings on a regular basis.

The minutes for the January, February and March meetings were recorded by Nancy Maitland. In April, Grace Kosch, Township Clerk, offered the services of the Administrative Assistant/ Deputy Clerk at the Township of Wellesley to act as secretary. The minutes from the April meeting were recorded by Amy Harron, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk. The minutes from the May, July, September, October, and November meetings were recorded by Lindsay Raftis, Interim Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk at the Township of Wellesley.

Lindsay Raftis, Secretary
February 7, 2021

2021 Heritage Society

Reserve Ac	1-2-1015-3096			
Date	Name	Revenue	Expenditure Including Net HST	Balance
Jan 1/21	Opening Balance			\$ 8,840.47
31-01-2021	Jan Interest	\$ 4.88		\$ 8,845.35
28-02-2021	Feb Interest	\$ 4.41		\$ 8,849.76
31-03-2021	Mar Interest	\$ 5.64		\$ 8,855.40
30-04-2021	Apr Interest	\$ 4.73		\$ 8,860.13
31-05-2021	May Interest	\$ 5.65		\$ 8,865.78
30-06-2021	Jun Interest	\$ 5.47		\$ 8,871.25
21-07-2021	Honorarium to Marg Rowell		\$ 200.00	\$ 8,671.25
31-07-2021	Jul Interest	\$ 4.79		\$ 8,676.04
31-08-2021	Aug Interest	\$ 4.79		\$ 8,680.83
01-09-2021	Sep Interest	\$ 5.35		\$ 8,686.18
01-10-2021	Oct Interest	\$ 4.80		\$ 8,690.98
01-11-2021	Nov Interest	\$ 5.36		\$ 8,696.34
01-10-2021				\$ 8,696.34
01-11-2021				\$ 8,696.34
01-12-2021				\$ 8,696.34
				\$ 8,696.34
		\$ 55.87	\$ 200.00	\$ 8,696.34
	2021 Revenue	\$ 55.87		
	2021 Expenses	\$ 200.00		
	Total funds available	\$ 8,696.34		
	Heritage Society GIC			\$0.00
	<i>Current Rates for GIC's are the same as the bank account</i>			

Koehler Estate Historical Fund 2021

Koehler Estate Historical Fund 2021				
Reserve Acct#	1-2-2100-9980			
Date	Name	Revenue	Expenditure Including Net HST	Balance
Jan 1 2021	Opening Balance			\$ 49,260.55
Jan-21	January Interest	\$ 29.75		\$ 49,290.30
Feb-21	February Interest	\$ 25.32		\$ 49,315.62
Mar-21	March Interest	\$ 31.41		\$ 49,347.03
Apr-21	April Interest	\$ 26.36		\$ 49,373.39
May-21	May Interest	\$ 31.45		\$ 49,404.84
Jun-21	Jun Interest	\$ 33.17		\$ 49,438.01
Jul-21	Jul Interest	\$ 30.60		\$ 49,468.61
Aug-21	Aug Interest	\$ 30.62		\$ 49,499.23
Sep-21	Sep Interest	\$ 34.21		\$ 49,533.44
Oct-21	Oct Interest	\$ 30.66		\$ 49,564.10
Nov-21	Nov Interest	\$ 34.25		\$ 49,598.35
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				\$ 49,598.35
				\$ 49,598.35
		\$ 337.80	\$0.00	\$ 49,598.35
	2021 Revenue	\$ 337.80		
	2021 Expenses	\$ -		
	Total funds available	\$ 49,598.35		
Koehler	GIC Total	\$300,000.00		
	Total Koehler Estate Balance	\$ 349,598.35		

Note to Reader: When GIC Matures in 2022, reinvest \$340,000 since the principal to be protected was originally \$340,000.

The notes for the use of the Koehler Estate are in the Historical and Heritage Society Folder on the Finance drive.