

# *Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society*

## **RESEARCH GUIDE**

This guide provides information on the resources in our collection as well as a list of other local history resources.

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## **WTHHS OBJECT AND PHOTOGRAPH DATABASE**

This is a database of all items in our collection. The items are stored in numbered boxes in the cupboards, and below the display cases and display tables. This is not a public database. Historical Room staff will help you search it.

## **MAPLE LEAF JOURNAL RESEARCH FILES**

These files were compiled during the research and writing of the township's history - *The Maple Leaf Journal: A Settlement History of Wellesley Township*, published in 1983. They consist of handwritten, typed and photocopied documents such as oral histories, clippings and articles from Waterloo Historical Society annual volumes, census summaries and others.

There is an Inmagic database listing the items in this collection called *Maple Leaf Journal Research Files*.

✓ A complete list of titles is in a folder in the cupboard with the documents boxes, which are in the cupboards below the display cases, boxes D to J.

## **MAPLE LEAF JOURNAL - A SETTLEMENT HISTORY OF WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP**

The history of the township was researched and written by members of the historical society. Their work was edited by Barbara J. Stewart, Phyllis Leleu Kitchen and Debbie Dietrich. It was published by The Corporation of the Township of Wellesley in 1983.

✓ In 2012 the book was digitized and produced on a searchable CD for sale by the WTHHS. The cost is \$17.70 + HST = \$20.00.

## **CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTIONS**

There are 27 cemeteries in Wellesley Township. The Waterloo-Wellington Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has transcribed the headstones in each cemetery and produced a CD of the transcriptions. We purchased the CD and it is stored in the CD drive of the historical room computer. A volunteer will help you search the CD. Information about the cemeteries and a map of their locations is on our website at

✓ <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/cemeteries.html> .

## **WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP MAPS**

There are six historic maps of the township and village of Wellesley. These have been reproduced and mounted and are displayed on easels.

- **1843 Wellesley Township Survey** by William Walker – This is the original survey of the township after which it was opened up for settlement. It shows the names and locations

of original settlers. ✓An index of names on the 1843 Survey is in a folder beside the easel.

- **Wellesley Township “Patent Plan” Map #20 from RG-1-100 at the Archives of Ontario.** Excerpt from AO description of Patent Plans: “... plans showing the status of Crown lands, whether patented, leased, or under a license of occupation .... Particularly in the pre-Confederation period, these plans were used to record locations on land made for grants and sales. However, the individuals named on the plans often did not follow through with obtaining a patent on the land.
  - **1855-1860 Plan of the Village of Wellesley** - This map shows businesses in Wellesley village. It appeared in *Waterloo Historical Society Annual Volume #55, 1967* in an article called “Wellesley Village,” by Florence Ratz Dewar. The original map was drawn by W. H. E. Schmalz to accompany the article. It has been reproduced by permission of the Waterloo Historical Society. (Map MO49)
  - **1861 Tremaine Map** – The Tremaine maps of Upper Canada were published by George C. Tremaine, Toronto. They are out of copyright and may be reproduced.  
✓ An index of names on the 1861 Tremaine map is in a folder beside the easel.
  - **1894 Fire Insurance Plan** - Charles Edward Goad created the plans between 1876 and 1910 followed briefly by his sons, who took over production. Ownership of the copyright of the plans has been unclear over the years. In 1993, the Archives of Ontario, Library and Archives Canada, and CGI Environmental Services reached a compromise agreement according to which the two government institutions would enforce restrictions on reproducing maps *less than ninety years old*. Since the Wellesley map was created in 1894, it is out of copyright and may be reproduced.
  - **1917 Wellesley Township Map** – This map includes the names of people who owned the land that that time. There is no index for this map.
  - We have a **modern map** of the township showing lots and concessions and current road names. It is useful for people who want to visit land owned or inhabited by their ancestors.
- ✓ There are printed copies of this map beside the easel, and it can be downloaded here:

[https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/wellesley\\_township\\_map\\_-\\_roads\\_lots\\_concessions\\_settlement\\_areas.pdf](https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/wellesley_township_map_-_roads_lots_concessions_settlement_areas.pdf)

## **HERITAGE / LACAC FILES**

These files were created by the former Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) from the 1970s to the 1990s. They include information on properties of interest for designation or inclusion in the Heritage Register. They are in documents boxes in the cupboards below the display cases.

## **DESIGNATED PROPERTIES**

Nine properties in Wellesley Township have been designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. A full list can be seen on our website here

✓ <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/heritage-wellesley.html>.

✓ More information on each property can be seen in the documents boxes in the cupboards below the display cases.

## **HISTORIC NEIGHBOURHOOD STUDY**

This study was done in the early 1980s by students at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture. The purpose was to show the students how to survey buildings in a small settlement area. It was done in conjunction with Wellesley LACAC (now part of the WTHHS). Not every house of historic importance is included. The study can be seen on our website at:

✓ <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/historic-neighbourhood-survey.html>

## **HISTORICAL BUILDINGS INVENTORY**

This information was compiled from records at the Land Registry Office by the Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation in the 1970s. They are orange ledgers in the large metal file cupboard near the door. They consist of land ownership information for some early buildings on each lot and concession.

✓ A list of the contents of each ledger is stored with the ledgers.

## **WALKING TOURS**

Walking tours of Wellesley village and Hawkesville are available on the display case outside our historical room and on our website:

✓ <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/walking-tours.html>

## **LAND REGISTRY LEDGER**

2014-15-002 - Land registry ledger, Wellesley Township, 1853 – 1881

- ✓ It is stored in Box 59 in the cupboard in the back right corner of the Historical Room:

## **FAMILY HISTORY**

There is a family history section on our website <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/family-history.html> which lists and links to other resource:

- **Published family histories** - stored in the large metal file cupboard.
  - ✓The list of books can be seen here <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/family-histories-in-our-collection.html>
- **Wedding notices** from the Wellesley Maple Leaf newspaper (1900-1908)
  - ✓<https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/marriage-and-wedding-notices.html>
- **Death notices and obituaries** from the Wellesley Maple Leaf newspaper (1900-1908) and other death-related items in our collection such as funeral cards.
  - ✓<https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/obituaries-and-death-notices.html>
- **Wellesley Roots**, a special section on our website for family history information donated by researchers. It is available here ✓<https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/wellesley-roots.html>

## **WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL VOLUMES**

The Waterloo Historical Society has been publishing its annual volume since 1913. We have a small collection of annual volumes, located in the back right corner of the Historical Room.

✓A list of articles relating to Wellesley Township is beside the volumes. We have the all the annual volumes containing articles about Wellesley.

✓A complete list of annual volume article titles can be seen here. <http://www.whs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/table-of-contents.pdf>

## **DIGITAL COLLECTION**

Over 12,000 documents relating to the history of Wellesley Township have been scanned and are available on our website here. Major collections are described below. The full listing can be seen here:

✓ <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/digital-collection.html>

### **TAX ASSESSMENT ROLLS, 1854-1889**

✓<https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/tax-assessment-rolls.html>.

### **WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES, 1866-1953**

<https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/wellesley-township-council-minutes.html>

## **“WELLESLEY MAPLE LEAF” NEWSPAPER, 1900-1908**

✓ <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/wellesley-maple-leaf-newspaper.html>

## **POLICE VILLAGE OF WELLESLEY MINUTES, 1908-1961**

✓ <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/police-village-of-wellelsey-minutes.html>

## **LIGHT AND POWER COMMISSION MINUTES, 1917-1965**

✓ [https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/2013-04-001\\_light\\_power\\_commission\\_1917-1965\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/2013-04-001_light_power_commission_1917-1965_compressed.pdf)

## **TELEPHONE SYSTEM MINUTES, 1919-1949**

**1919-1933** ✓ [https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/08-43-01\\_telephone\\_system\\_minutes\\_1919-1933\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/08-43-01_telephone_system_minutes_1919-1933_compressed.pdf)

**1934-1949** ✓ [https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/09-02-01\\_telephone\\_system\\_minutes\\_1934-1949\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/09-02-01_telephone_system_minutes_1934-1949_compressed.pdf)

**1949-1961** ✓ [https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/99-01-01\\_telephone\\_system\\_minutes\\_1949-1961\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/99-01-01_telephone_system_minutes_1949-1961_compressed.pdf)

## **WOMEN’S INSTITUTE - MINUTES**

The Wellesley Branch of the Women’s Institute was founded in 1903. Its early minute books are lost to us, but we do have the minute books from 1919 to 2008.

✓The minute books from 1919-1994 are stored on Document box K, L, M and N in the cupboards under the display cases.

✓The minutes books from 1994-2008 are in Box 48.

The entire set of handwritten minutes has been scanned and is available on our website at

✓<https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/wellesley-womens-institute-minutes.html>

## **WOMEN’S INSTITUTE - TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY**

We have the original Wellesley Women’s Institute Branch’s Tweedsmuir history. It consists of several binders containing a wealth of information in the form of articles, clippings, photographs and handwritten accounts of current events and issues. These are available for study in our Historical Room.

✓ The Wellesley Tweedsmuir History is on the corner cupboard in the back right corner of the Historical Room. ✓ <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/wellesley-tweedsmuir-history.html>

**Linwood** <https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/linwood-tweedsmuir-history.html>

## **Dorking**

[https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/dorking\\_tweedsmuir\\_ocr\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.wellesleyhistory.org/uploads/9/2/9/6/9296178/dorking_tweedsmuir_ocr_compressed.pdf)

## SELECTED LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCES

Resource	Location
Waterloo Historical Society	<a href="http://www.whs.ca">http://www.whs.ca</a>
Region of Waterloo Archives	<a href="http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/regionalgovernment/archives.asp">http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/regionalgovernment/archives.asp</a>
Grace Schmidt Room of Local History, KPL	<a href="http://www.kpl.org/ref/gsr.html">http://www.kpl.org/ref/gsr.html</a>
County and City Directories at KPL	<a href="https://www.kpl.org/localhistory/directories">https://www.kpl.org/localhistory/directories</a>
Digital Research Computer in the Grace Schmidt Room	A public computer that contains thousands of digitized records, located in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History.
Waterloo Region Generations - a biographical history of the Region of Waterloo.	Contains information of over 360,000 people with over 1,200,000 source citations; created by volunteers. Its goal is to create <a href="https://generations.regionofwaterloo.ca/">https://generations.regionofwaterloo.ca/</a>
Ontario Fire Insurance Plans available at UW	<a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/library/geospatial/collections/maps-and-atlases/fire-insurance-plans">https://uwaterloo.ca/library/geospatial/collections/maps-and-atlases/fire-insurance-plans</a>
Ellis Little Local History Room, WPL	<a href="http://www.wpl.ca/services/local-history/">http://www.wpl.ca/services/local-history/</a>
Waterloo Chronicle Newspaper	<a href="http://images.ourontario.ca/waterloo/search">http://images.ourontario.ca/waterloo/search</a>
Mennonite Archives of Ontario	<a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/mennonite-archives-ontario/">https://uwaterloo.ca/mennonite-archives-ontario/</a>
Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum	<a href="http://www.waterlooregionmuseum.ca">http://www.waterlooregionmuseum.ca</a>
City of Waterloo Museum	<a href="http://www.waterloo.ca/en/living/CityofWaterlooMuseum.asp">http://www.waterloo.ca/en/living/CityofWaterlooMuseum.asp</a>
Township of Wilmot – Sir Adam Beck Archives	<a href="http://www.wilmot.ca/en/things-to-do/Heritage-Wilmot.aspx?Township-of-Wilmot-s-Sir-Adam-Beck-Archives-1">http://www.wilmot.ca/en/things-to-do/Heritage-Wilmot.aspx?Township-of-Wilmot-s-Sir-Adam-Beck-Archives-1</a>
University of Waterloo – Special Collections and Archives	<a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/library/special-collections-archives/collections/collections-thematic-guides/local-history-and-genealogy">https://uwaterloo.ca/library/special-collections-archives/collections/collections-thematic-guides/local-history-and-genealogy</a>
The Eby Book	Family histories from Pennsylvania German pioneer families in Waterloo Township, published as "A Biographical History of Waterloo Township" in 1895 and 1896. <a href="http://ebybook.region.waterloo.on.ca/index.html">http://ebybook.region.waterloo.on.ca/index.html</a>
Waterloo County to 1972: an annotated bibliography of regional history, by Elizabeth Bloomfield, 1993	<a href="https://archive.org/details/waterloocountyto00bloo">https://archive.org/details/waterloocountyto00bloo</a>
Waterloo Township Through Two Centuries, by Elizabeth Bloomfield, 1995	Available for purchase from the Waterloo Historical Society <a href="http://www.whs.ca/publications/">http://www.whs.ca/publications/</a>
Waterloo County: an illustrated history. By Geoff Hayes, 1997	<a href="http://www.whs.ca/publications/">http://www.whs.ca/publications/</a>