



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
Phone: 705-571-3308
Email: info@burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com
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Heritage Centres
Watt Century Farm House
827 Chetwynd Road
Armour Township

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse
112 Midlothian Road
Ryerson Township

MINUTES
Burk's Falls & District Historical Society
Fell Homes, Burk's Falls
Thursday, October 13, 2016

Members Present: Linda Maurer - President
Betty Caldwell – Vice President
Rakel Gray – Treasurer
Charlene Watt – Secretary
Diane Brandt
Lorne Main
David Gray
Lisa Morrison

The Members present constituted a quorum.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Linda Maurer in the Chair.

Welcome:

Linda welcomed Members.

Delegation:

None

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Acceptance and adoption of the September 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes: **Moved by Lisa Morrison, Seconded by Diane Brandt. Carried**

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's / Financial Report presented by Rakel Gray. Financial Report has been attached for review. **Motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Lorne Main, Seconded by Betty Caldwell Carried**



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Committee Reports:

Schoolhouse: Wilma Bentley submitted a written report detailing the 2016 season for the Schoolhouse – Visitors: 451 (2015 was 386). Total season sales: \$280.50.

General Business:

1. *T-Shirts:* Diane Brandt reported to Members that she had received a quote from Novelty Man in Huntsville for Gildan Cotton T-Shirts. Cost is \$10.00 each with a screened logo. The matter will be deferred to another meeting when more Members are present to decide on colour(s), etc.
2. *Post Cards:* Diane Brandt reported that she had received a quote from BayPress for 4 x 6" postcards with full colour on both sides of 100 for \$80.00 and 250 cards for \$125.00. Photographs need to be chosen for the postcards.

Linda Maurer suggested that Members think of unique items to sell at the museums. Linda made mention of the laser cutting on thin wood that David Gray previously promoted. We may need to get away from selling calendars, they are not selling like they used to.

3. *British Home Child Event:* Linda commented on the wonderful job that Dona Crawford had done on providing information on British Home Children. Members recognized the work and effort of Dona that went into making the event successful.
4. *Pumpkin Carving Event:* The party will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at a cost of \$5.00 per family. Members that will be present for the event include: Charlene, Linda, Diane, Betty, Lisa, Bruce, Nieves and Jordan Watt. This is a costume party with crafts, games and treats for the children. Treat bags will be handed out to children as they trick or treat throughout the upstairs by knocking on doors. Brad Crozier, Leanne Crozier, Grant Ralston, Sarah Hicks and Brian Hicks confirmed that they will be in attendance to carve pumpkins. Valu-mart has donated 40 pumpkins. Almaguin Campground donated \$50 to the event. Brad Crozier is donating cookies and Linda will make a fruit punch. Tea and coffee will be served. Bruce will read a passage from a Terry Boyle book. Linda suggested we have a silent auction for the professionally carved pumpkins and Members supported the suggestion. Charlene will create silent auction sheets. Members are asked to be at the farm house by 11:30 – 11:45 a.m. to set up for the party.



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5. *Christmas Event:* A cookie decorating event with Mrs. Claus is planned for December 11th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It's a Sunday afternoon. Cost would be \$5.00 per family. We will plan for Santa to attend. Further discussion will occur at our next meeting.
6. *Christmas Craft Sale:* The Agricultural Society is holding their craft sale on November 25th (4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) and November 26th (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) Volunteers are needed for the day to sit at a craft table and sell calendars, history books and postcards. Please contact Linda Maurer or Betty Caldwell if you are able to donate some time on either of those days.
7. Members made mention of moving the monthly meeting date for 2017. The item will be deferred to another meeting.
8. Mike Quinton provided a written report to Members detailing a summary of museum archives, titled "A Guide to the Holdings". The report has been attached.
9. *Museum Hours:* The schoolhouse is now closed for the season. The farm house will be open Thursday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. until the first week of December.
10. *Canada 150 Tulips:* Correction to last month's verbal report – Charlene indicated that the Township of Armour has donated 25 tulips bulbs not 50. The bulbs need to be planted in the fall.
11. *Diane Brandt Follow Up:* Diane reported to Members that she contacted Rod Blakelock regarding the missing shelves from the library. Rod indicated that he will get some shelves made soon. He has the material, just needs the time.
12. *Lt-Col. Victor Fell:* Lorne Main advised Members that he attended the Grey & Simcoe Foresters Regimental Museum in Barrie today and discussed Lt-Col. Victor Fell. The museum will put up a display on Lt-Col. Victor Fell.
13. *December Potluck:* Members will meet on December 8, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at Fell Homes for the annual Christmas potluck dinner.



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Other Business:

None

Adjournment:

It was decided to meet on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at the Fell Homes at 7:00 p.m. There being no further business, **Betty Caldwell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m., Seconded by Diane Brandt.**

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Secretary

Approved by
Linda Maurer, President

THE BURK'S FALLS DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2016-2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

	REVENUE	Deposit	Total deposit	Member ships	Post cards	Sale of Books + DVDs	Public Donation	Legion Donation	Mun Donation	Prov Grants	Fund Raisers	Bank Interest	Sale of Calendars	Sale of News-paper	Misc	Events	Total	Bank Reconciliation	
Mar 31/15	Bank interest	0.65	0.65									0.65						0.65	9,283.20
Mar 1/2016	Bank balance forward																	3,182.91	Mar 31/2016 Bank Balance
April 15,	Armour Grant	5,000.00							5,000.00										
	Calendar sales	16.00	0.70									0.70	16.00						
	Bank interest	0.70																	
	Donation Jar	25.00	5,041.70				25.00		5,000.00			1.35	16.00					5,042.35	
	Total	5,041.70	5,041.70				25.00		5,000.00			1.35	16.00					5,042.35	
																		5,041.70	
																		11,142.64	
																		298.27	
																		10,844.37	Reconciled to Bank Statement
May 16/16	Bank interest	0.94	0.94									0.94							
May 17/16	Ryerson grant	500.00	500.00						500.00										
May 17/16	Donation Jar	15.00	15.00										16.00						
May 17/16	Calendars	16.00	16.00																
May 30/16	Donations	43.85	43.85																
May 30/16	Back Fly Tea	65.00	65.00																
May 30/16	Donation Jar	5.00	5.00						500.00			0.94	16.00					645.79	
	Total	645.79	645.79				63.85		500.00			0.94	16.00					645.79	
																		93.87	
																		11,396.29	Reconciled to Bank Statement
Jun 30/16	Bank interest	0.91	0.91									0.91							
Jun 15/16	Membership Dues	30.00	30.00	30.00															
	Total	30.91	30.91	30.00								0.91						30.91	
																		829.85	
																		10,567.35	Reconciled to Bank Statement
July	Strong Ag Calendars	1,000.00	1,000.00																
Jul 8/16	Donations	200.00	200.00				200.00												
Jul 18/16	Books	84.00	84.00			279.00	84.00												
Jul 18/16	DVD	279.00	279.00			32.00													
Jul 18/16	Botle Return	32.00	32.00			10.00													
Jul 18/16	Strong Ag Newspaper	100.00	100.00			50.00													
Jul 20/16	Donations	50.00	50.00									0.90							
	Interest	0.90	0.90									0.90							
	Total	1,755.90	1,755.90			361.00	284.00					0.90	1,000.00	100.00	10.00			1,755.90	
																		2,253.99	
																		10,049.26	Reconciled to Bank Statement
August	Sales from Wart Farm	89.00	89.00			1.00													
Aug 3/16	Diane - whit give cred	24.86	24.86																
Aug 3/16	Bf Donation	5,000.00	5,000.00						5,000.00										
Aug 3/16	Armour Donation	2,102.85	2,102.85						2,102.85										
Aug 15/16	Sale+Donation Dep	483.15	483.15																
Aug 31/16	Interest	1.40	1.40									1.40							
	Total	7,701.26	7,701.26			88.00	170.15		7,142.85			1.40	250.00	54.00	27.86			7,701.26	
																		684.87	
																		17,065.65	Reconciled to Bank Statement
September	Sales+Donations	365.00	365.00																
Sept 27/16	Donations	50.00	50.00																
Sept 30/16	Interest	1.37	1.37									1.37							
	Total	416.37	416.37			4.00						1.37	140.00	26.00				416.37	
																		714.19	
																		16,767.83	Reconciled to Bank Statement
Oct 3/16	October Sales + Donations	183.50	183.50			36.50	83.00						60.00	4.00					

Burk's Falls and District Historical Society

Archives – A Guide to the Holdings

In addition to the many artifacts that may be seen on display in the Wiseman's Corner School House and the Watt Farm House, the Historical Society is fortunate to hold several interesting collections of photographs, newspapers, business correspondence, printed letterhead, family histories, manuscripts, journals and other ephemera. Visitors are invited to enquire about topics of interest and one of the staff or volunteers would be pleased to see if we are able to find items for your review while at the museum. A brief summary of our collection is provided below:

PHOTOGRAPHS: Thanks in large part to the generosity of the late Ted Bunt, our archive contains several hundred old photographs and post cards, many over 100 years old. The collection includes images of Burk's Falls from its earliest years, including prior to and immediately after the disastrous fire of June 1908. Many early buildings and industries are well represented, as are the Magnetawan River steamboats from the 1890's to the 1930's.

NEWSPAPERS: Older copies of the Burk's Falls Arrow are quite scarce and we are fortunate to have a few, including ones from 1887, 1902 and from 1908 documenting the Great Fire. We have several issues from the 1920's and 1930's and many more from 1940's onward. We also have many copies of the successor newspaper, the Almaguin News, as well as a great number of clippings highlighting local events and people. A future project will be to properly catalogue and index these interesting articles.

SCHOOL HISTORIES: Before school consolidation took place in the 1960's, each Township had several one room school houses (of which our Wiseman's Corner Heritage Centre is one - S.S. #4 Ryerson). We have several written descriptions and reminiscences of the many schools in the area, as well as photographs of some.

FAMILY HISTORIES: At present, we have only a few histories of local families; we would welcome copies of any additional family histories that may be available. We do have a history file of the "First Family" of Burk's Falls, David Francis "Frank" Burk, available for viewing.

MANUSCRIPTS & JOURNALS: We have several journals and transcriptions of oral histories from early residents of Burk's Falls and District in which they describe their memories of life in the early days. A project is underway to make transcriptions and index each of these manuscripts.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS: We have a small collection of legal documents, mostly land deeds, mortgages, and similar items from the 19th and early 20th century. It includes an original land patent from Armour Twp in the 1880's.

PETTITT FARM COLLECTION: Our collection of business receipts from the Pettitt Farm (Lot 11 Con. 6 Proudfoot Twp) is a remarkable record of local commerce from about 1890 to 1940. Now housed in four binders, it consists of the following items: Vol 1. Receipts from Burk's Falls businesses, including among many others, James Sharpe, Fowler's and A.A. Agar's General Stores, Magnetawan Tannery, Knight Bros. Planing Mill, doctors, dentists and other merchants in the village; Vol 2. Similar business receipts from merchants in Kearney and the Sand Lake area; Vol 3. Regional and national businesses such as Massey Harris, Cockshutt Plough Co. and others; Vol 4. A handwritten journal about the Pettitt family and their building of the log house on the property, together with additional information about the family.

T.B. (Boyd) HIGGINSON COLLECTION:

Boyd Higginson lived in Burk's Falls from about 1965 to 1976. He was employed as Principal of the Burk's Falls High School, and later at the East Parry Sound Board of Education. While living in Burk's Falls he started a private publishing venture, Old Rectory Press, to publish the family and local history pamphlets he wrote as a lifelong hobby. Three of these pamphlets are of direct relevance to the history of the Burk's Falls area: Sportsman's Paradise Volumes I (1965) and II (1972); and Bengough and Burk's Falls (1975).

In 2015, we were able to acquire a modest collection of Higginson's pamphlets, correspondence, typescripts and other items of his Canadiana collecting interest, written by and to Higginson. A project is underway to record a biography and full bibliography of the work of this interesting Burk's Falls resident.

MILITARY RECORDS:

[need info]