



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0  
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Watt Century Farm House  
827 Chetwynd Road  
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Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse  
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Ryerson Township

**MINUTES**  
**Burk's Falls & District Historical Society**  
**Watt Farmhouse, Burk's Falls**  
**Thursday, June 9, 2016**

Members Present: Linda Maurer – President  
Betty Caldwell – Vice President  
Rakel Gray – Treasurer  
Charlene Watt – Secretary  
Diane Brandt  
Bruce Campbell  
Lisa Morrison  
Jarv Osborne  
Rosalind Hall  
Trina Chatelain - Guest

The Members present constituted a quorum.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Linda Maurer in the Chair.

**Welcome:**

Linda welcomed Members & Guests. The President introduced Trina Chatelain to Members as the new Mature Heritage Co-ordinator. Trina signed a contract of employment and will be working with us for 15 hours a week until December 2016. Trina informed Members of her background which includes a degree in anthropology and a certificate in museum studies. Trina is a museum professional offering two and half years of experience in collections management and preventive conservation. She has volunteered in the museum field since 2010. Trina also works part-time for the Algonquin Visitor Centre and Logging Museum in Algonquin Provincial Park as a Collections Co-ordinator.

**Delegation:**

None



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### **Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Acceptance and adoption of the May 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes: **Moved by Linda Maurer, Seconded by Betty Caldwell. Carried**

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer's / Financial Report presented by Rakel Gray. Revenue received in the month of May included \$500 from the Township of Ryerson, \$58.85 in donations, \$16.00 in calendar sales and \$65.00 from the Black Fly Tea. Expenses included \$21.40 to Diane Brandt, \$56.44 to Net Spectrum and \$10.28 for tea. The bank balance on May 26, 2016 was \$11,356.93. Invoices that are to be paid in June include \$661.96 for annual insurance; \$95.00 for the community sign in Burk's Falls and \$34.45 to Diane Brandt.

**Motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Rosalind Hall, Seconded by Lisa Morrison. Carried. Motion to accept the financial statement as read: Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Diane Brandt. Carried**

Members discussed the annual renewal notice from MTO for the Tourism-Oriented Directional (TOD) sign for the Schoolhouse on Hwy 520 in the amount of \$172.89. Signs created by Rick Almont were recently put in place promoting the schoolhouse. **Motion to not renew the TOD sign contract and to not pay the annual sign fee: Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Rakel Gray. Carried**

### **Committee Reports:**

#### *Membership:*

Membership forms are on our new website and members have been asked to complete the new forms for 2016. Rakel Gray will send out reminder notices to Members that still have to pay for the 2016 Membership renewals.

#### *Heritage Committee Reported.*

Heritage Day: Members decided to not permit vendors at the event as space is limited. Popcorn, coffee, tea and a cake will be free of charge. Betty will order the cake for Heritage Day. Bottled water is to be stocked in the fridge that Cam Watt donated to the farmhouse. Jarv will obtain two tents from the Village of Burk's Falls, one will be used to display uniforms, the other for the Huntsville Veterans. Diane has confirmed use of the Fire Department's large tent for the day. Volunteers for the day include Cam Watt and family, Kim Dunnnett and family, Linda, Rakel and Dave, Betty, Lorne and Dona.

Betty Caldwell updated Members on the status of the heritage newspaper that is being funded through the RED program. The Burk's Falls section of the publication has been submitted to Rob Learn at the Almaguin News. Photographs are to be chosen next week. Betty is unsure of the status on Sundridge's contribution to the newspaper project.



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*2017 Calendars:* Diane Brandt informed Members that the 2017 Historical Society Calendars which celebrates Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a war hero theme will be sent to the printers soon. There will be 400 copies printed of the 2017 calendar and sold at a cost of \$10 each.

*Heritage River Walk Mapping.* Bruce Campbell presented to the Members information regarding a new App titled "Heritage River Walk" (created by Brad Crozier) is available for download on mobile devices. The App is half trail map, half history lesson and blends together a detailed description of the trail system along with various points of historical significance.

*Constitution Committee Reported.*

The revised constitution has been completed. Digital copies will be provided to Members unless a print copy is requested from Diane Brandt. The document will be posted to the website. Charlene will post the document as Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA) compliant.

**General Business:**

1. *Blackfly Tea.* Linda Maurer reported on the event. We had 17 visitors and had 4 Historical Society Volunteers. This was the third time a tea event was held at the Watt Farmhouse and each time, there has been a hydro outage. The Burk's Falls bus transported seniors from the village to the event. The day was considered a success.
2. *Summer Hours:* In the early part of the month of June, Wilma will volunteer hours at the schoolhouse on Saturdays and Sundays. Wilma will open the Schoolhouse Heritage Centre in Ryerson the Thursday before Canada Day (June 23, 2016) and will keep the facility open on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until Thanksgiving Weekend. Trina will attend the schoolhouse as needed to change and freshen up the displays.

The Watt Farmhouse will be opened on June 25, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Linda Maurer will volunteer her time that day. The Farmhouse will be staffed effective July 5, 2016 to the end of August 2016 from Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Summer students will work between the schoolhouse and the farmhouse. If the Watt Farmhouse is to be open on Sundays, we require Membership volunteers. A schedule will be drawn up to reflect the following: Sunday Hours from Noon to 3:00 pm. July 2 – Maureen; July 3 – Lisa; July 10 – Diane; July 17 – Linda; July 24 – Betty; July 31 – Diane; August 7 – Lisa; August 14 – Linda; August 21 – Betty. Please contact Linda



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Maurer if you are able to volunteer any time to assist in keeping the heritage centres open.

3. *Summer Staffing & Municipal Contributions.* Summer Student – 30 hours per week at \$13.00 per hour paid for by Canada Summer Jobs 8 weeks; Summer Student – 30 hours per week at \$15.00 per hour paid for by Young Canada Works 8 weeks (not 12 as originally asked for); amendment was approved for the 8 week position. The positions are not 100% funded. We will have two summer students. We received four resumes for the summer student positions. Interviews for the student positions are scheduled for Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 beginning in the evening at the Watt Farmhouse. Linda Maurer, David Gray or Diane Brandt and Trina Chatelain will interview the four candidates. Trina will schedule the interviews. Once students are hired, Trina will work with the students and get them organized at the beginning of a week and check up on them later in a week. Betty and Diane will also volunteer time to assist Trina with summer staffing. Summer students will be expected to paint upstairs room(s) at the farmhouse, clean windows and sort newspapers. Trina Chatelain will work with Dave Gray in attempts to obtain corporate sponsors and attract both local and tourist groups.
4. *Glass Negatives.* Glass negatives that were donated were taken into Cavalcade Photo in Huntsville for developing. Pictures were obtained from the 1800s and many had never been seen before. One photograph was of a baseball team.
5. *Schoolhouse painting.* Paint was dropped off from Home Depot. Jarv and Bruce will co-ordinate to paint the floor of the schoolhouse. Home Depot is not able to volunteer painting services as previously discussed.
6. *Schoolhouse shed lighting.* The shed needs lighting. Diane Brandt informed Members that the solar lights that were purchased will likely not work (per Jerry Brandt). Ideas will be discussed at a later date to *shed light* on the subject.
7. *Schoolhouse Cleanup.* Linda advised Members that the schoolhouse was cleaned on May 15<sup>th</sup> and that the closet was too full and had too many unknown items. The closet has now been cleared out and selected items transferred to the Watt farmhouse. Items will be organized and catalogued by the new staff. The horse and logging displays at the schoolhouse will remain there.
8. *"Conservation Book".* While cleaning out the schoolhouse on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 a book was found in the closet. The large handmade book had a birch bark cover and was titled "Conservation". The book was created in the 1950s by the SS #1



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McMurrich Monteith students. Four classes participated in the creation of the book and photographs were taken. The book was presented by the Historical Society to the McMurrich Monteith Council in recognition of the municipality's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Aben graphics will make copies of the book for the public to view and the original book will be placed under glass and put on display. The book was given to the Historical Society in 2002.

9. *Donation.* A \$25 donation to the Canadian Diabetes Association was agreed to be made in memory of Lois Bridgman (nee McNay). Rakel will contact Opatovsky Funeral Home tomorrow. Lois passed away at her home in Burk's Falls on Monday June 6, 2016. Mrs. Lois Bridgman, beloved wife of the late Norm Bridgman, was in her 80th year.
10. *Recognition Plaques.* Diane Brandt presented to Members two wooden plaque boards to recognize key sponsors to the Historical Society. Levels of recognition include: \$250 – Bronze; \$500 – Silver; \$750 – Gold; \$1000 – Platinum. The wooden plaques were paid for through the Red Grant and will hold approximately 18 plates per board. The Township of Armour, Township of Ryerson and Village of Burk's Falls will be recognized on the header of the boards.  
  
A plate will also be created and posted at the Military and Library Room in the Watt farmhouse to honour and recognize Lawrence Main for his dedication to the community and the Burk's Falls District Historical Society and to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> year.
11. *Keys.* Diane Brandt is to have a Watt farmhouse key cut for the Village of Burk's Falls office to have on hand. Keys will also be cut for the schoolhouse for Diane Brandt and Trina Chatelain.
12. *Next Meeting:* It was decided to meet on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at the Watt Farmhouse at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, **Bruce Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m., Seconded by Lisa Morrison.**

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Recorded by  
Charlene Watt, Secretary

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Approved by  
Linda Maurer, President