



Newsletter - February 2025

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February 19, 2025 at 7 p.m.

'A Solemn Promise'

A brief overview of the history of Treaties in the region

With Sinead Cox, Curator of Engagement and Dialogue at the Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol, and author of Prisoner Profiles; Unlocking Secret Stories from the Huron Historic Gaol

Treaties are not just historical documents, but outline ongoing rights and responsibilities that are protected by the Constitution Act 1982. This presentation provides an introduction on where to start and what we should know about Treaties in our area, focusing on the Treaties that impact what are currently the settler municipal boundaries of Huron County.

PLEASE note a small change to our procedure.

In an attempt to streamline the process, **ALL current members** will automatically receive a ZOOM link to join this talk.

Non-Members are still welcome, and they can email **HCHS1965@gmail.com** by February 16 for the link, as usual.

We hope you will join us for what is sure to be a great evening.

Also, a note that 2025 memberships are available for renewal and make great gifts anytime of the year!

Executive for 2024-2025

David Armstrong - President 519-524-1156

Ralph Laviolette - Secretary-treasurer 519-440-6206

Elaine Snell - Membership 519-523-9434

Directors

• Mary Gregg 519-524-9372

• Rhea Hamilton- Seeger 519-612-1201

• Mac Campbell

• Susan Gloucher

• Larry Mohring

• Ben Woodward

• Mandy Sinclair

As History Continues To Happen

Our main feature for the 2025 Notes is Seaforth's 150th celebration. Yes, it will include the surrounding settlements which competed for settlers and how Seaforth grew due to the coming of the railway. Location, location!

Seaforth community was fortunate to have so many authors who loved history and documented the rich community stories. Starting with Isabelle Campbell, James Scott and Dean Robinson. The local community newspaper, the Huron Expositor, recorded the everyday news stories as well as features on the lives and adventures of the community. It is now part of the Huron County digitized publications collection and is accessible via the Huron County Museum websites.



Snow in Blyth - Date unknown, but car enthusiasts can probably date it quickly. Photo from the Brock Vodden Collection

Seaforth's big weekend is August 1-4, 2025. The Homecoming committee has a Facebook page to help keep everyone from near and far up to date on the lead-up events. We expect to see some great old photos popping up here.

More recent history is being gathered for a **Blyth book** to be published in time for their 150th celebration in 2027. Phillip and Susan Street published *Blyth, A Village Portrait* in 1977 to celebrate Blyth's Centennial. This next book will build on that and cover the next 50 years.

The Blyth book committee has been meeting for a year now and copy is starting to pull together. The group is creative and some of the topics include the challenges of going metric and the tribulations of converting our electronics and digital communications from 1999 to the year 2000! Memories are being challenged with lists of businesses that have been in operation over the last 50 years and of course contacting people for stories and photos. Get your thinking cap on and see what you can contribute.

If you have stories, photos or wonderful memories of Blyth in the last 50 years, the committee would love to hear from you.

Contact Cheryl Cronin at ccronin@tcc.on.ca or Karen Webster at akwebster424@gmail.com

Films donated to the Huron County Museum Archives

There are those shining stars who seize new technology and use it to the betterment of their community. I don't think Harold Jeffery fully appreciated the act of capturing local events on his new film camera. Jeffery's reels include the moving of the Spirit of Huron from the East Street rail yard to the Huron County Museum located on North Street, Goderich; and the air show of June 14, 1964 which featured the landing of the Lancaster as well as the short program afterwards.

Mr. Jeffery also had parades, and the Aquatic Sports Day at the Goderich Harbour, 1958. These reels give us a wonderful view of life in and around Goderich in the 60s and 70s. We can see what drew crowds, what they wore and what the town looked like and how it has changed. In one reel Goderich Collegiate Institute, corner of Waterloo and Picton Street west, is shown in the background of a parade in all its architectural grandeur. It was demolished in 1973. An apartment building is there now.

His daughter is in the process of donating his reels of film to the Archives of the Huron County Museum.

Some are already posted on the Museum YouTube site and well worth exploring. *Be patient, there are one or two unrelated ads you can click on skip.* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHbq-3ZEofg>

If the above link does not work, I simply put *Videos posted by Huron County Museum* in the search box and up came a whole variety of them.



No. 6275, *The Spirit of Huron*, left, was bought by Huron County Museum Curator Herbert Neill for \$3000. \$1200 of which was reimbursed to him by the sale of \$1.00 shares. Shown here on its way to the Huron County Museum in May, 1959. Photo from *Memories of Goderich The Romance of the "Prettiest Town in Canada"* edited by Dorothy Wallace and published in 1977 by the Jubilee 3 Committee.

UPDATE on the Maitland Mills Association Inc.

The Maitland Mills Association, which began in 2019, planned to renovate the two remaining mills on the Maitland River, They are located at Gorrie (Maguire Mill) and at Brussels (Logan's Mill). The Association has been negotiating with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and municipal officials for some time for mechanisms for the Association to own or long-term lease each of the mill buildings. It planned to rehabilitate them, and to renovate them as museums for the historical record of pioneer grain and saw mills on the Maitland, of which there were over seventy-five according to Hazlitt and Turner's *The Power of the Maitland*. The Society held a general meeting in 2019 in Brussels highlighting the plans for the mills, and later recognized the history of both mills in its special edition of *Historical Notes* in 2022 titled *A Tale of Two Mills*.

Unfortunately, weather, floods and storms got the better of the Gorrie Mill. It deteriorated before action could be taken and was demolished in 2022.

However, arrangements are imminent for the Association to gain possession of the Logan's Mill in early 2025 and plans are afoot to update the building and set up the museum as a display of pioneer milling equipment used in the watershed.

Stay tuned for updates, Further information is available at hplar@tcc.on.ca.



Dominion Flour Mills, Gorrie, Ontario From Power of the Maitland

Membership renewal...

If you received this newsletter by mail, the date shown above your name on the address label is the year to which your membership is paid up, according to our records. Call Elaine Snell if you are not sure or need clarification. If you are in arrears, consider this a reminder that the membership fees are \$20. To reserve your member's hard copy of *Historical Notes*, keep your dues up to date.

We are making it easy to renew membership or simply to make a donation by using e-transfer. Send the e-transfer to: hchs1965@gmail.com

Copies of recent past *Historical Notes* are available, please email hchs1965@gmail.com (past copies are \$8 to \$10 per copy).

To access the members-only section for the *Historical Notes* or to do a search for names or places in the *Historical Notes*, go to www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca, open the dropdown menu for Publications, click HCHS Members Login. If you cannot get access using the password, then check if your web browser is up to date.

If the password is lost or not available readily, contact hchs1965@gmail.com

Just an added note. The login password has been the same for a number of years and our web master suggested it was time for a change. So if you have not renewed and are having problems accessing the archives, please contact Elaine about renewing.

Where to get your Local History Books
And back copies of the Historical Notes

Fincher's and The Book Peddler both of Goderich, North Huron Citizen in Blyth, The Book Barn off Hwy 86 between Wingham and Whitechurch, The Village Bookshop, Bayfield and Bayfield Archives.