



Huron County Historical Society

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www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca

Newsletter November 2021

Executive for 2020-2021

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|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Vacant | President | 519-440-6206 | Ralph Laviolette | Secretary-treasurer |
| Vicky Culbert | Past- president | | Mac Campbell | Director |
| Elaine Snell | Membership | 519-523-9531 | James White | Director |
| Mary Gregg | Director | | Susan Gloucher | Director |
| Rhea Hamilton- Seeger | Director | 519-612-1201 | Larry Mohring | Director |
| | | | Liz Sangster | Director |

January Program Takes A Video Twist

John Galt and the Instant City

January 12, 2022 at 7 p.m.

In his homeland of Scotland, John Galt is well regarded for his literary accomplishments. In Guelph, he is widely known as a colonist and founder of the city.



John Galt

In 2019, Guelph Museums received an invitation to participate in an international commemoration of Galt's 240th birthday. At the same time, they were revisiting Guelph's founding story - a story traditionally centered on Galt's arrival in Canada in 1827 to build a Scottish settlement. The story excluded the Indigenous Peoples present on this land before Galt's arrival. It celebrated the building of a vibrant colony. It did not convey the destructive impact of colonization on Indigenous Peoples.

As we learn more about the presence and resilience of the First Peoples, we have an obligation to reconsider the founding story of Guelph. We must expand the narrative to be inclusive of the whole truth. In this light, Guelph Museums presented *John Galt and the Instant City* as a live musical theatre event in schools and community venues in Guelph and in Irvine and Greenock, Scotland in 2019, and had intended a school tour in 2020.

Fast forward to 2021 and while circumstances do not allow *John Galt and the Instant City* to be presented live this year, the messages in the show are as relevant and necessary as ever before. With support from the Government of Canada – Museum Assistance Program, River Run Centre and Ward 1 Studios, Guelph Museums are pleased to offer the film version of *John Galt and the Instant City*. We hope it sparks critical thinking about our past, illuminates truth, and inspires action towards reconciliation. More details next page

For getting the zoom link for January 12, 2022, 7 pm, all interested should email hchs1965@gmail.com to be notified of the login details.

Our Shared History

As the year winds down towards the joys of 'end of year festivities', we have a lot to be thankful for and even more to think about as 2022 looms.

If you were able to join us at our last zoom meeting you would have noticed a change in our opening format. After much struggle and conversation, and of course research, the Executive of the Huron Historical Society offered up an 'evolving' land acknowledgement preamble to the meeting.

"We want to acknowledge the Traditional Territory of the Anishinabek Nation: The People of the Three Fires known as Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatomi Nations. And further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash, now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, as the traditional keepers of this land. Our ancestors found a rich diverse natural world. We acknowledge the importance of indigenous people's stewardship today, in the maintenance and conservation of Canada's biodiversity. And we are committed as a Historical Society in providing a means for education, to discover, collect, preserve, and perpetuate inclusive historical information related to Huron County."

There is a lot of 'see-sawing' on the matter. In some cases repetition of these land acknowledgement claims dullen the response or understanding of just what is being said. Randall Kahgee's zoom presentation on **What Does It Mean To Be Treaty People?**, offered by the Huron County Museum a few weeks ago, opened up some serious thinking about each of our responses to reconciliation. He started with 'we are all treaty people' and the first step is understanding just what the treaties entail. Our next step is to learn about the real history of our area and what our governments at different levels are doing as Treaty Partners.

Resources

We encourage you to explore these resources to further your knowledge about our colonial history and the 94 Calls to Action for all Canadians (list generated by Guelph Museums):

- Calls to Action, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Final Report and Calls for Justice, National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (you can download the report from National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Creators, cast and crew of
John Galt and The Instant City

Mike Ford

Mike Ford is a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal-awarded and Juno-nominated singer-songwriter, whose bilingual Canadian history-themed concerts are performed in schools across Ontario, presented by *Prologue to the Performing Arts*. A member of the pop group Moxy Früvous in the '90s, and co-creator of the exciting new musical *Chelsea Sunrise*, he previously partnered with Guelph Museums on the McCrae House Backyard Theatre presentation of *Sons of '17* – a production which subsequently toured Belgium and France in 2018.

Murray Foster

Murray Foster is an award-winning singer-songwriter, filmmaker, musician, music producer, teacher, writer, speaker, and founder of Toronto Songwriting School. Known to many as a member of the pop groups Moxy Früvous and Great Big Sea, and as co-creator of the simply terrific band The Cocksure Lads, Murray is a sought-after navigator of the creative world, weaving together his experiences in music, film, and theatre. He made his Guelph Museums debut at McCrae House Backyard Theatre in *Sons of '17* in 2016.

Alex Jacobs-Blum

Alex Jacobs-Blum is of the Lower Cayuga Nation of Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, and mixed European ancestry, currently living in Hamilton. Alex is the former Indigenous Community Relations Coordinator at Guelph Museums. Her work focused on building relationships with local First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, striving to centre Indigenous voices within the museum, and supporting the continued learning of museum staff in reconciliation and decolonization. A photo-based artist, Alex's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. She has facilitated photo and social justice workshops with Indigenous youth at Western University, London and Centre for Artistic + Social Practice, Hamilton.

Coming up in 2022

Our history is so much more than the European settlement of this area. With that in mind we are looking at 'Trees of Huron' and 'Archeology of Huron' as topics for the coming year.



Resources continued

- 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act: Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation With Indigenous Peoples a Reality, by Bob Joseph
- White Fragility: Why it's so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism, by Robin DiAngelo
- Unsettling the Settler Within: Indian Residential Schools, Truth Telling, and Reconciliation in Canada, By Paulett Regan
- The Reconciliation Manifesto: Recovering the Land, Rebuilding the Economy, by Arthur Manuel, Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson, and Ronald M. Derrickson

Community Impact Award

Our Jack McLaren Exhibition at the Huron County Museum has been nominated for a Spirit of Success Award, which celebrates those businesses, organizations and individuals in our community that shine above all others. Stay tuned.

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. **Email us about using e-transfer.** Copies of recent past Historical Notes are available from Elaine Snell at 519-523-9531 (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 or call 519-440-6206

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.

Never too early to think of simple elegant Christmas gifts

For a special gift or simply a thoughtful card to send consider using cards featuring some of the iconic artwork of Jack McLaren. They are available for sale at Fincher's, and The Book Peddler in Goderich.

A Wee Bit Of History

Donnybrook United Church started out as a Methodist mission in a wee log cabin on the east half of Lot 25 Con. 6 West Wawanosh in 1855 on the corner of John Craig's farm. Services were first held in the Craig home hence the name Craigs, one of the earliest preaching places of the Wawanosh mission. A frame church was built to the west of the cabin in 1880. In 1909 the church underwent massive renovations with the building raised and a foundation constructed as well as a choir loft and narthex added. The church, like so many others became obsolete and was dismantled in 1999. All that remains is a park around the cemetery.