



Newsletter - December 2024

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January 15, 2024 at 7 p.m.

'Tea Meetings, Concerts, And Other Things Too Numerous To Mention'

Join us for our first virtual talk of the year via zoom.

We are excited to welcome our speaker Rebecca Beusaert author of *Pursuing Play, Women's Leisure in Small-Town Ontario, 1870-1914* and co-founder/co-director of the "What Canada Ate" website.

This talk will be a lively examination of women's efforts at the turn of the 20th century, to negotiate space for themselves and their leisure pursuits. Though women's recreational choices were restricted by pervasive ideas about propriety, Beusaert reveals how they increasingly spearheaded both formal and informal clubs, events, and social gatherings, and integrated them into their daily lives.

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 January 12 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!

Festive Greetings From Your Historical Society

It has been a busy fall and looks like spring is shaping up to be even more interesting. The Notes for 2025 will feature 150th celebrations for a number of settlements. While the Huron Tract and settlement here in Huron County will be marking its 200th anniversary in 2027, towns and villages continue to mark their 150th anniversaries of their official corporation dates.

The first event to understand is the signing of the Treaties that opened this part of Ontario for European settlement.

Sinead Cox, of the Huron County Museum, will be our speaker, February 19th. She will give us an introduction on where to start and what settlers should know about Treaties in our area.



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

Historic Albion Hotel to Rise Again

The Albion Hotel, a Bayfield landmark, suffered extensive damage when its roof collapsed early on the morning of Dec. 8 due to snow load. Well known as a centrefold for the village, a warm place to meet and enjoy life.

Fortunately the hotel was empty and no one was injured. Equipment quickly moved in to secure the building, removing the veranda, and debris. The plans are to rebuild and the owners have kept the community up to date on what is going on via Facebook

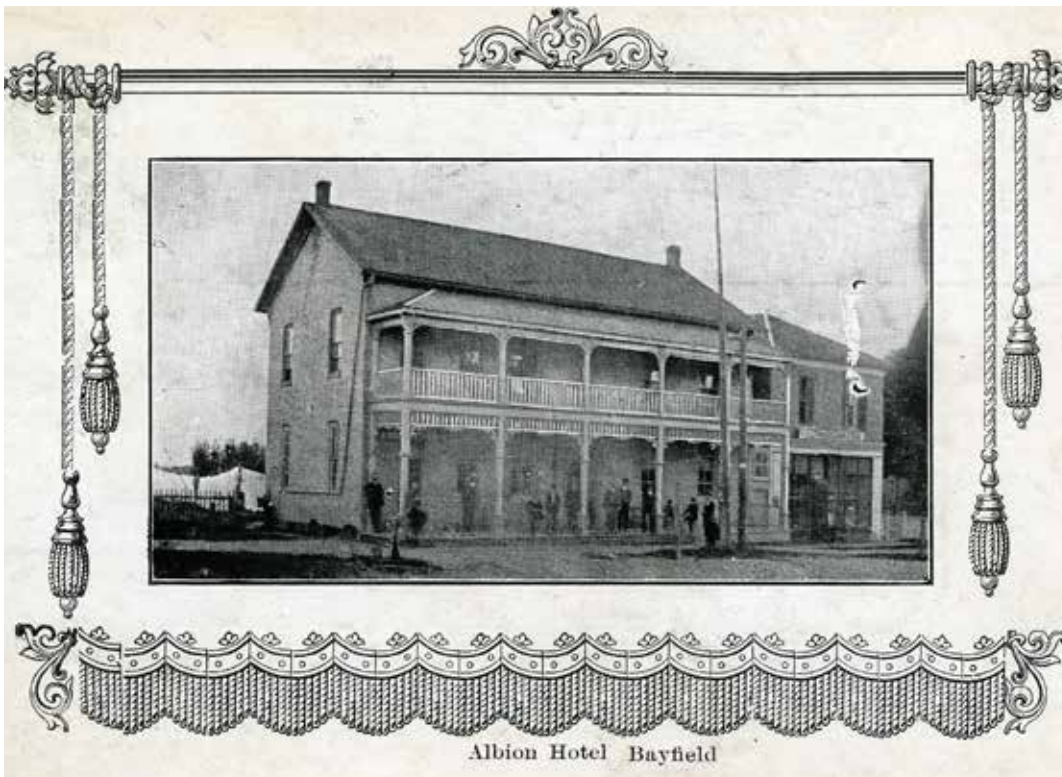
The Albion has been a village landmark for over 150 years. The following history complements of the Bayfield Breeze Issue 805 Week 51 Vol 16.



In the very early 1840s a man named Robert Reid constructed a one story building as a general store on the site that is today known as 1 Bayfield Main Street North. In 1856 the building was modified to add a second story and the doors were opened as The Albion Hotel.

According to the book, “Bayfield Historic Walking Tour” composed by the Bayfield Historical Society in 2009, this version of the then stagecoach hotel was torn down and the larger hotel of present day was constructed (no exact date is provided for this construction). The hotel was purchased by the Elliott family in 1890 and members of this same family ran the business until 1964.

In 1902 the double verandah was added by the Elliotts. According to The Albion Hotel website, “In the 1980s great effort was made to bring in all the modern amenities expected of a hotel while at the same time restoring the original architecture and feel of late nineteenth-century Bayfield. After doing some basic remodeling of the rooms and kitchen, a heritage grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications was granted to restore the original veranda.”



The current owners Leigh and Jeff Graham purchased the property in February 2018 from long-time proprietor Kim Muszynski.

1907 postcard view of the Albion published in our 2012 Huron Historical Notes

Congratulations Ben!

Ben Woodward is one of our newest members of the Huron County Historical Society Executive. He brings a wealth of knowledge and is well versed in local history. We are proud to add our congratulations to Ben. The following was first published by Happening in Huron by Community Futures, November 2014

From Bayfield Summer Student to National Recognition

Ben Woodward, a seasonal Bayfield resident and former summer assistant at the Bayfield Archives, exemplifies the power of nurturing young talent. Supported by Community Futures Huron during his time with the Bayfield Historical Society (BHS), Ben digitized archives, catalogued historic images, and created the Bayfield Historical Webmap using GIS technology. His efforts laid the groundwork for his continued passion for local heritage and innovation.

Today, Ben is pursuing a Master's in Earth Sciences at the University of Waterloo, specializing in Coastal Geomorphology. His undergraduate thesis focused on Lake Huron's shoreline, and he continues to study bluff erosion along the coast. Just a side note his thesis is titled '*Peering over the Precipice: Using Archival Records to Extend our Knowledge of Historical Bluff Retreat on Lake Huron*'.

Recently, Ben developed an augmented reality app to showcase Bayfield's Main Street history, offering residents and visitors an interactive way to explore local heritage.

In October 2024, Ben's achievements earned him the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal, awarded for his contributions to geography education and youth engagement through the Canadian Geographic Workshop Series.



From his roots with Community Futures Huron and the BHS to shaping Canada's geographic legacy, Ben's journey is a testament to the lasting impact of fostering local talent.

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.