



Newsletter - September 2024

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Take Me To The Fair!

Still time to enjoy a local country fair. And yes, adults and kids alike are still submitting their garden's finest along with livestock's best of breed. We often forget our rural roots and taking in a fair reminds us of all the work and joy in raising food for our communities and our country. We need to be reminded sometimes of the richer elements in our community. We still have Kirkton, Brussels, Lucknow, Howick-Turnberry, and Ripley-Huron before



the big Royal Winter Fair in November. Dates are listed on Our Fairs Ontario Ag Societies web page. Your Historical Society directors were at the Zurich Bean Fest and at the time of printing were planning on attending the Blyth Threshermens' Weekend.



In Person / Zoom Talk

September 18th 2024 at 7 p.m.

A Most Honoured Building

Join us for what is sure to be a great talk by Gil Garratt, Artistic Director, and Rachael King, General Manager, on the building of Blyth Memorial Community Hall and the history of the Blyth Festival. Learn of a perfect pairing between an aging building, some farsighted visionaries and its enduring legacy for a community.

Gil Garratt is an award-winning actor, playwright, dramaturge and theatre administrator whose career has been largely dedicated to the development of new Canadian plays. Rachael King has worked widely as a stage, production and tour manager. She holds a BA in Drama in Education from the University of Windsor as well as a Master of Fine Arts, Stage Management.

Please join us IN PERSON at Blyth Memorial Hall, 431 King Street, Blyth. There is also a limited number of seats at the Blyth Inn for dinner at 5 p.m. Email HCHS1965@gmail.com by Sept. 15 for ZOOM link and/or dinner menu

Executive for 2023-2024

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

Historical Society Highlights

by Rhea Hamilton Seeger

The summer has flown by! My Nana was right when she cautioned me that 'the older I get the faster the days fly by!', and she was right!

This summer we learned of the valuable contribution of young women who headed to the farmlands during the war years responding to "We Can't Fight If We Don't Eat". A record turnout for *Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz* written for Blyth Festival by Allison Lawrence, inspired by the book by our own Bonnie Sitter and Shirleyan English. It captured the untold stories of the young women and their excitement, pain and joy of growing up during the war years away from family. Stay tuned for a documentary film of the same name in the near future!

Life Members

Your Society accepted two new life members at their May meeting. These are community historians who have furthered the love and interest in Huron history.

Mac Campbell grew up in Goderich and has been always fascinated by his community especially all the rail connections and the development of the harbour and what makes it all tick. Mac captured many moments on film and was part of a small group to spearhead the publishing of the book *Goderich Jubilee 3 - 1827-1977, Memories of Goderich*. He is a mover and a shaker and reminds us of the stories of our past. Mac sat on the Bridging the Gap campaign to save the Menesetung Bridge we all enjoy today; a member of the Municipal and Marine Heritage Committee; a Lifetime Member of the Rotary Club and has been a well received speaker on a variety of local historical topics.

David Armstrong, an active community historian, has been part of an ad hoc committee (Chair) to address the need for greater and improved county archives. While the project started a number of years ago, the need is even more pressing in light of personal collections that are not being either retained or stored properly. This spring, David and Ralph Laviolette presented their report to Huron County Council in a bid to get their support to proceed with a business plan to take us positivity into the future. The return to Historical Society sponsored bus trips was initiated by David who not only takes your names and menu choices but plots out the trip and venues we will visit. No small feat. He has been recently interviewed by the *Stash* and presents articulate arguments for the study of local history and the need to keep it in our vision of the future. He is the voice that eloquently represents the Huron County Historical Society

Wingham Historical Society

invites you to a presentation on

Huron County's 26 SALT Manufacturing Facilities (including Wingham) The Beginning And The End

by Bevan Brown & Valdeane Gedcke

Wednesday September 11 at 2 pm

At the Alice Munro Library

The Streamliners show dates October 16 to 27, 2024

at the Livery Theatre, Goderich

A wonderful play about the **RCAF Streamliners Dance Band 1941-1946**, written by Andy Sparling and James White, directed by Duncan McGregor should be on your calendar. The play just might get you tapping your feet and wanting to get up and dance! Great film clips in the back drop and actors swirling to the music around the audience. Tickets are going fast. The show is in a lovely theatre located in the historic Livery building behind the Bedford, off the Square, Goderich. Call the Livery 519-524-6262 for tickets, or go on-line.

Copies of our 2024 *Historical Notes Celebrating RCAF Clinton* will be available to purchase.

Ted Turner

I am honoured to have called Ted Turner a friend. He was a warm, clever man who, among other talents, researched issues and topics thoroughly. And we still enjoy his labours of love.

Harold Edward 'Ted' Turner passed suddenly June 7, 2024. He was born in Clinton and raised in Goderich where he attended both public and high school and later graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a B.Sc in math and physics as well as a Ph.D in atmospheric science. He worked as a researcher and a research manager with the Toronto office of Environment Canada, retiring to Goderich in 1994.

His greatest joy was being actively involved with local community bands, primarily playing the trumpet. Some of you may have heard him as he played with the Goderich Laketown Band, the Blyth Festival Orchestra, the Lighthouse Swing Band, the Kincardine Brass

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. Contact www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca

Copies of recent past Historical Notes are available please call 519-440-6206 (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

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.

Band, and the Goderich Foghorns. He was a busy guy! Ted also volunteered at the Huron County Museum and spent hours pouring over military badges and you can see the results of his hours of work still on display at the Huron County Museum. He also worked in the archives bringing order to valuable papers.

Ted was the main researcher behind the *1996 Historical Notes Place and Post Office Names in Huron County*, still in print and available. A great research tool. He was a Life Member of the Historical Society.

I got to know Ted better when he and John Hazlitt were researching their book *Power of the Maitland*. John knew the lay of the land, but Ted researched the history and together they made a remarkable team. I had the joy of tramping around the Maitland river looking for head and tail races of long gone mill sites. It was both invigorating and educational too. All the work our ancestors went to wrestling a life out of the wilderness, some spots were merely hints of the massive work needed to bring power to the new communities.

Our Society, indeed, our greater community, is richer for knowing Ted Turner, community historian.



John Hazlitt, Rhea Hamilton Seeger and Ted Turner with their book Power of the Maitland.

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.