



# Huron County Historical Society

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[www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca](http://www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca)

## Newsletter April 2023

### Executive for 2022-2023

David Armstrong	President	519-524-1156	Mac Campbell	Director
Ralph Laviolette	Secretary-treasurer	519-440-6206	James White	Director
Elaine Snell	Membership	519-523-9434	Susan Glousher	Director
Mary Gregg	Director	519-524-9372	Larry Mohring	Director
Rhea Hamilton- Seeger	Director	519-612-1201	Liz Sangster	Director

April 19, 7 p.m. 2023

### Yes! An In-Person Meeting!

## Menesetung Canoe Club and the Maitland Lodge #33 Goderich

Join us as **Dr. Edwin Kent Gillin**, M.Sc., Ph.D. and current Club President, share the history of the **Menesetung Canoe Club**. From its beginnings in 1906, to its present-day use, Kent's tour will include the welcoming gathering space where members continue the tradition of friendly competition, including billiards, cards, and board games. We will also see original photographs and antiquities that form a record of this unique club's 117 year history.

**David Yates**, local historian, columnist, and author is giving us the rare opportunity to visit **Maitland Lodge #33 Goderich, A.F. & A.M.** The first Masonic Lodge was formed in Goderich in 1840 and the Maitland Lodge was established in 1845. Its first master was Dr. William 'Tiger' Dunlop. The lodge has stood the test of time and has been beautifully restored to its original glory after the 2011 tornado.

Come tour the oldest fraternal organization in Huron County and get a glimpse into the secrets and mysteries of ancient free masonry.

### Meet at 39 West St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Goderich

Tours start at 7 p.m.

Fully accessible.

Email [hchs1965@gmail.com](mailto:hchs1965@gmail.com)

if you have any questions

Early (pre 2011) photo, right, of the Masonic Lodge on West Street, Goderich. Location of our April meeting

From the Editor

## Local 1949 Film Triggers Collecting Local History Through Memories and Laughs

In light of the closure of the Wingham museum, a talented, energetic group are busy finding other ways to preserve their history. Members of the HCHS attended a formative meeting in Wingham to lend support to the group.

From that meeting came a list of projects that the newly formed Wingham Historical Society is going to tackle. They have some interesting projects that need some volunteers to help with.

North Huron Municipality, with guidance from the Huron County Museum staff, has a big job ahead of it with dispersal of their archives and artefacts. There is a process that has to be followed and we will be watching to see how it all unfolds.

One of the interesting projects the Wingham HS is taking on is building a script or monologue to a 1949 movie made of Wingham. The group, which meets at the Library, was able to identify some people and buildings and the stories started to flow. They were only able to see two thirds of the movie and will continue another day. Their next meeting is Wednesday April 12 at 2:30 at the Alice Munro Museum in Wingham. Everyone is welcome.





## London Free Press Office, 122 Carling Street, London 1870

*Built in the 1850s, The London Free Press was here until 1871 when it moved to Richmond Street. This building became the Queen's Hotel and in 1921 it housed the Farmer's Advocate, a agricultural journal founded by William Weld in 1866. It was the country's longest published agricultural paper circulating throughout Canada and the U.S. for 99 years. In 1974 the Marienbad Restaurant opened in the building.*

*Photo courtesy of London Public Library*

## Membership renewal....

*Our 2023 Notes will be featuring the History of Exeter, which is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday June 29 to July 2*

To reserve your member's hard copy of Historical Notes, keep your dues up to date. 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.

Email us about using e-transfer. 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](http://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](mailto:hchs1965@gmail.com) or call 519-523-9434

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.

## Trek to Lucan and London

**Deadline to Book your space is May 1st**

### Itinerary

*The full day starts at*

8 a.m. with pickup at Huron County Museum, North St. Goderich

### **Lucan Area Heritage and Donnelly Museum**

Tour with treats from Donnelly Café (included)

### **Lunch at the Marienbad Restaurant**

This historic building was the home of Josiah Blackburn's London Free Press.

Over dessert there will be a brief talk about the Indigenous people who call this region home.

### **Museum of Ontario Archaeology**

A museum devoted to the study, display, and interpretation of the human occupation of Southwestern Ontario over the last 13,000 years. Included is a visit to the adjacent Lawson Site and a tour of a reconstructed Longhouse. Light snack for the trip home.

### **Contact David Armstrong to book your spot.**

Telephone 519-524-1156 or email

[davidarmstrong@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:davidarmstrong@hurontel.on.ca)



*Main Street Wingham*

*Photo card courtesy of Larry Mohring*

## Wingham Memories

If you were a member of the Wingham community and have a story please contact Brent Boyer. (Contact info at the end) Here is a sample of ideas to spur some memories.

### 1. Connection to Wingham

What brought you or your ancestors to Wingham. When?

Where did you live in Wingham & area over the years? If your old home is still there, how has it changed? Names of parents & grandparents & other relatives in the Wingham area; their personalities & jobs; Memories & stories my parents and grandparents told of their early years in Wingham

## 2. Memories of everyday life:

- your neighbours and “characters” who were memorable in the town;
- music, phone, radio (CKNX / Barn Dance?), tv, entertainment around Wingham
- favourite musical groups and songs
- changing styles (clothing/hair...)
- gardening, wash day, clothes lines,...
- hobbies
- home heating: wood/coal/ oil/ electrical,...
- shopping; favourite stores
- kids’ groups & activities
- illnesses, medical and dental care, hospital visits, emergencies
- getting around by car (& train?)
- sports, using the Maitland River
- surprises, unforgettable days
- summer holidays, bike-riding
- community involvements at various times
- hard decisions

## 3. Unusual and memorable events:

- in nature - floods/wind storms/heat waves/blizzards/fires
- human: robberies & other crimes, accidents, unexpected deaths

## 4. Work:

- Where did your parents & grandparents work?
- What stories did they tell about what it was like to work there? Accidents? Problems? Favourite part of the job? Changing use of machines & technology over the years?
- First day? Typical day? Worst day? Last day?  
*Same for yourself*

## 5. School:

- Where did you go to school? Year of graduation?
- How we went into school, opening exercises
- What you remember about various teachers you had
- What was different then from now
- Outings and field trips
- Discipline, strap?
- Choirs & clubs, assemblies
- Sports & teams you were involved in
- Best friends
- Funny things, sad things

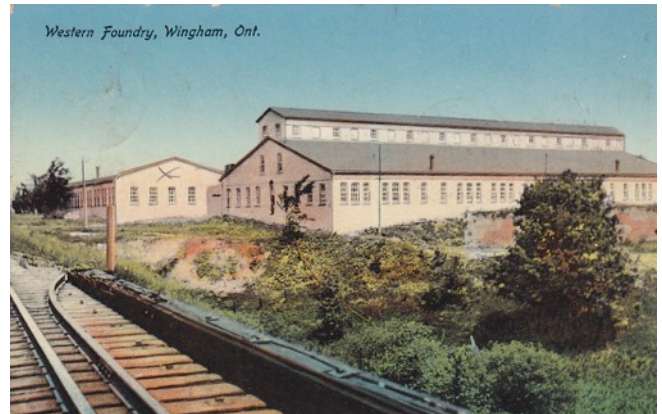
## 6. Community involvements

- Interests, clubs, sports, community service groups, church, etc.

If you'd like help in writing out your memories or doing an audio/video tape, don't hesitate to contact Brent Bowyer (519-357-1883). There are several Wingham & Area HS members who are willing to help out. They also have a Facebook account with quite a selection of postings.



GTR Train Station, Wingham  
Postcard courtesy of Larry Mohring



Wingham Foundry  
Postcard courtesy of Larry Mohring

## 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.

### Need a simple elegant gift?

For a special gift or simply a thoughtful card to send consider using cards featuring some of the iconic artwork of Jack McLaren. Call executive member Mary Gregg 519-524-9372 or check out Fincher's, and The Book Peddler in Goderich.



J.W. (Jack) McLaren Notecards available.  
Choose from 10 Huron County Scenes. \$3.00 each.

Please email: [glousher@cabletv.on.ca](mailto:glousher@cabletv.on.ca) or [e.mary.gregg@gmail.com](mailto:e.mary.gregg@gmail.com) to arrange purchase.