



Huron County Historical Society

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www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca

Newsletter January 2024

Executive for 2023-2024

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|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|----------|
| 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 | | |

January 17, 2024 Zoom Talk 7 p.m.

Challenging Times

Stories of Disaster, Resilience, and a Cautionary Tale

Zoom Talk with David Yates

Disasters, both manmade and natural have scarred Huron County history since the beginning of European settlement. From the extermination of the Passenger Pigeon to the F-3 Tornado that struck Goderich in 2011, David Yates will explore some of the most memorable events that have shaped the county's history.

Retired from 30 years of teaching secondary school history David Yates is the author of several books on Huron County History including: *Out of the Woods*, *Out of the Blue*, *That Freedom Might Survive* and *The Time of Our lives*.

An active community member, David is a Past President of the HCHS.

Email hchs1965@gmail.com
for the Zoom Link *Everyone Welcome*

Webinar about George Agnew Reid

Join the Huron County Museum and poet and biographer Molly Peacock on

Thursday January 18, 2024 - 7-8 p.m.

A Question-Provoking Painting by George Agnew Reid Returns Home, a virtual webinar about Reid, the renowned Wingham artist. Reid's vigorous mural of a settler family with wagon and oxen fording a river has recently been donated to the Huron County Museum. Through this webinar, Peacock will address the contradictions of Reid's life and work apparent in this painting. Registration is on line at

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9eP0aZcNt_WSE662hJm5lg#/registration

From the editor's desk

Huron Heritage Fund Not Renewed

Some years ago Huron County Council created a Huron Heritage Fund to encourage the preservation of heritage assets and activities of heritage importance to the people of Huron. It was a simple way to help a wide variety of projects move forward. From repairs or upgrades to heritage buildings, seed funding for local heritage books and events. All the funding was on a shared basis, in other words the fund was truly seed money.

Huron County Council voted to discontinue the fund at their December meeting. There was little discussion as council is facing some 'big ticket' items and needs to make some cuts. We will miss the support of the heritage fund but there may come a day when it will be added to the budget again. In the meantime we thank council for its support of all things Huron.

If you have not been to the Huron County Museum to see the George Reid Mural please put it on your must see list. It came as a donation but our Museum had to pick up the cost of having professionals pack and move it to Goderich. Learn more about George Reid at the zoom webinar January 18.

While on the topic of the Huron County Museum. A member of your Society sits on the Collection Committee. Donations of materials continue to be made to the Museum all year. There are some occasions where donations are not accepted due to lack of relevance to Huron County or quite simply there are already a number of similar items already in the collection. I cannot begin to tell you how many organs they have or wedding dresses from every decade.

J.H. Neil, the ultimate collector and founder of the Museum, took all donations gladly as they represented a pioneer way of life. More recently, meaning in the last few years, the collection has been thoroughly catalogued, a mammoth task, and gaps have been noted and items not related to Huron have found homes within other municipal or organization collections.

The staff at the Museum work hard to create exhibits from the Collection through the galleries as well as invite exhibits from other sources. You can subscribe to their newsletter on the Museum's website – www.huroncountymuseum.ca

Future Speakers

February 21, 2024 7 p.m. Zoom Talk

A Huron County Pioneer in Canadian Aviation

On September 14, 2023 Keith 'Hoppy' Hopkinson was inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame at its 50th Anniversary gala celebration in Calgary, Alberta.

Hoppy is considered by many to be the Father of the homebuilt aircraft movement in Canada and an aviation entrepreneur in every sense. He built and flew the first homebuilt aircraft to be licensed in Canada. Named "Little Hokey", Hoppy flew this little plane throughout North America winning awards along the way.

Hoppy's daughters, Anne Tafeit and Jane Sager, will share his legacy, his fascinating life in aviation and their family memories of 'Little Hokey' and Sky Harbour Air Services in Goderich.

If you have an idea or suggestion about future speakers or topics please contact any of the directors listed on the first page or email us. We would love to hear your ideas.

Another tidbit...

For the last nine months in 2023, my brother Jim (Pattison) and I, Kate Vanderhorst have embarked on a very special 'passion project' to honour our father John W. Pattison.

Over forty years ago, our father researched and collected stories about his beloved town Wingham from microfilm newspaper articles. He was the property curator of the local Wingham Museum and would weekly publish his articles in the local newspaper under the title of "Museum Musings - Brief Glimpses of Wingham's Past", in order to generate interest in the local town history.

In March of this last year, we returned to his book and decided to retype ALL of the book and to put in a Table of Contents, add images, write up three more chapters, add to his articles, change the fonts and the 'look' of the book. It is a heavy text and we are very grateful to local town historian Jane Vath for her gracious use of her extensive postcard collection, as well as Mike Smith, Peter Sturdy and Rob Hughs for added images for interest.

It is a book of rich history, best enjoyed a few chapters at a time, so one can reflect on how the settlers, dreamers, believers and doers of Wingham built a town with industries, governance, and endured endless hardships of fire and floods throughout the years. They laid down the infrastructure so that we could enjoy and benefit from, while growing up there and living there now.

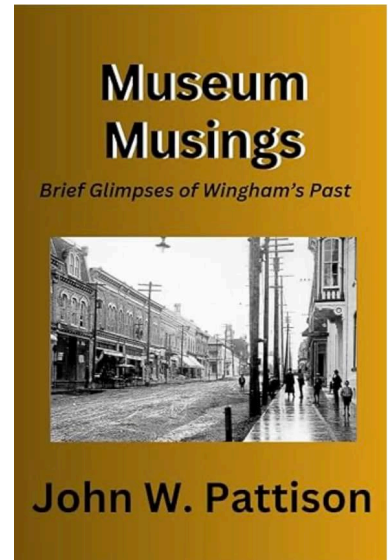
The original book numbered 289 pages. The revised version numbers over 450 pages with 175 photos, news clippings and photographs.

Along the way of checking our facts with the Huron County Museum of Digitized Newspapers, we felt a very strong presence of our father sitting along side us. We hope this book honours our father. All the articles written by him have been retained, making the book a time capsule of dad's research and writing from the late 70's to 1982.

This book is comprised of brief glimpses of Wingham's past. Our father attempted to highlight some of Wingham's achievements within the scope of the research material that he had available. These chronicles of Wingham are a time

capsule of our ancestors, but are not all-inclusive. Also, please keep in mind that this book was originally published in 1982. References such as 'the current location' or the building there now' are references to the way things were in 1982, not 2024.'

The book is now available online at https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=museum+musing&crd=5XD4QD5SRVEC&sprefix=museum+musing%2Caps%2C88&ref=nb_sb_no_ss



The Executive of the Historical Society has agreed to provide nominal grants to encourage writers and presenters to assist in covering their costs. Enquiries may be made through our email.

Membership renewal....

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 519-523-9434 (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 it was time for a change. So if you have not renewed and are having problems accessing the archives, please contact Elaine about renewing.