



Huron County Historical Society

PO Box 3, Goderich ON, N7A 3Y5

519-440-6206 email: hchs1965@gmail.com

www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca

Newsletter September 2023

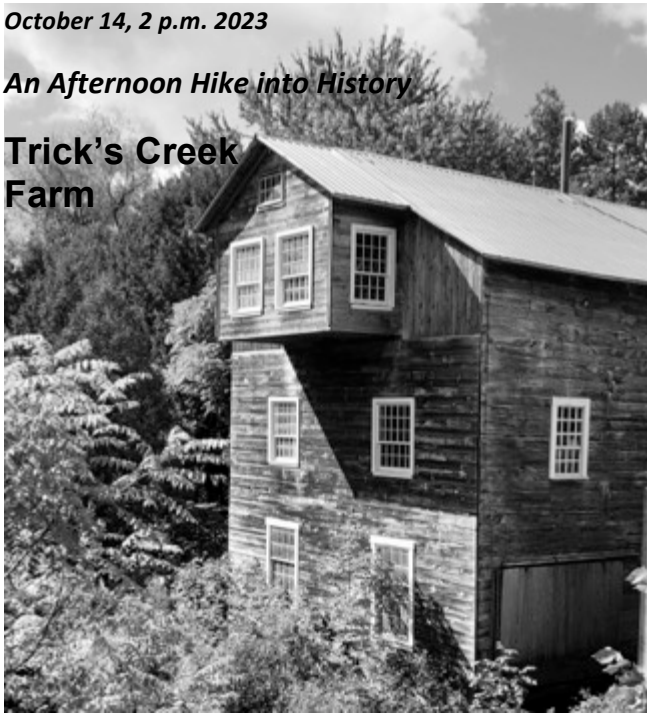
Executive for 2022-2023

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

October 14, 2 p.m. 2023

An Afternoon Hike into History

Trick's Creek Farm



Join us for a walk through time and see how a family grew around this creek and made a life that has been enjoyed by six generations.

The property was purchased by the Trick family in 1873 as a going concern water powered grist mill and sawmill known as Spring Creek Farm.

The water power provided by the creek and dam gave a very distinct advantage in ways other than turning the millstones. A powered buzz saw for cutting firewood instead of using a cross cut saw, electrification before rural distribution systems were set up for refrigeration and lighting, running a sawmill for cutting logs to lumber when the early alternative was a "pit" saw powered by two men (one above and one below the log).

Still today, the bulk of the buildings and activities continue to be provided with electricity generated in the mill. Day in and day out, providing there's adequate water flow, the water turbine is generating

the needs for a big portion of the property.

The farm now is host to a herd of beef cattle, a small variety of smaller animals, and lots of wildlife. Bill and Thea Trick are our hosts.

Please bring a mug for cider, wear comfortable shoes and dress for a walk in the October woods. *No rain date planned*

They are located at 37733 Bayfield Road Clinton. It would be appreciated if as many of you as possible could car pool. Thanks

Email hchs1965@gmail.com if you have any questions

From the editor's desk

We salute another Community Historian

Eugene McGee was fascinated by the Air Navigation School that set up north of Port Albert on Hwy 21 on the same farm he was born on. It started a lifetime of gathering memorabilia from which he wrote a book and contributed many articles to the Huron County Museum in Goderich. In 1986 Eugene organized a reunion for the ANS and eventually built two memorial cairns on the north side entrance of Port Albert with plaques in memory of the school and those who died while training there.

Eugene worked on the Great Lakes boats for about ten years and then the salt mine in Goderich. He lived on Nile Road near Sheppardton not far from the base location.

When Eugene was 80 he reached out to the community to help him find a good place for his collection. There were a few suggestions but the best solution having it installed in the Huron County Museum in 2010. A life-time achievement.

Eugene McGee of Goderich passed away at Goderich Alexandra and Marine General Hospital on Sunday, July 30th, 2023, at the age of 92. Eugene – also known as "Bim" – is one of our true Huron County Historians.



Photo of Eugene McGee from the *The Story of Port Albert 175 Years* published by the Port Albert Community. Eugene contributed greatly to it.

Future Speakers

We have an interesting lineup of speakers coming this winter. Two of them you can watch from the comfort of your home via zoom. Author Marilyn Simonds, will talk to us about her biography of Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, who retreated in midlife to a log cabin in the bush to study songbirds. **Woman, Watching** is about an extraordinary woman who was a pioneer in bird observation during a time when birds were dissected to be understood.

Our second speaker, TBA, will tell us about one of the latest inductees into the Aviation Hall of Fame this year. Keith (Hoppy) Hopkinson was a champion of homebuilt aircraft and an aviation entrepreneur. When the Second World War broke out, Hoppy was a flight instructor for the Waterloo Wellington Flying Club. Soon after he moved to the British Commonwealth Air Training Plans' Elementary Flying School at Goderich. After the war he began a new company Sky Harbour Air Services and not long after purchased the Goderich airport. He was featured in the 2005 edition of the Huron Historic Notes

Education is the key to reconciliation. Education got us into this mess, and education will get us out of it." Honorable Murray Sinclair

Never truer words spoken. The executive has been exploring supporting a Blanket Exercise to help better understand our shared history with indigenous people. We have an invitation to attend the Kairos Blanket Exercises. All the details are on page 3 of this newsletter. Looking forward to seeing some of you there. **Please note there is a preregistration.**

Another tidbit...

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.

HURON COUNTY
AUTHOR TALK
Live Event & Book Fair

Featuring author discussions, readings, research opportunities, book fair, refreshments, and more!

Wednesday, Oct. 18
6-9 p.m. | FREE
Huron County Museum
110 North St., Goderich

Membership renewal....

Our 2024 Notes will be featuring The Vanastra Air Base

Although threatened with closure following the war, No. 5 Radar School was, in fact, saved and authorized as peacetime RCAF Signals School. Renamed Canadian Forces Base Clinton with military forces' integration in 1966, the base experienced remarkable growth and development over the next 24 years.

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, 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.

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: goucher@cablets.on.ca or e.mary.gregg@gmail.com to arrange purchase.

THE KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

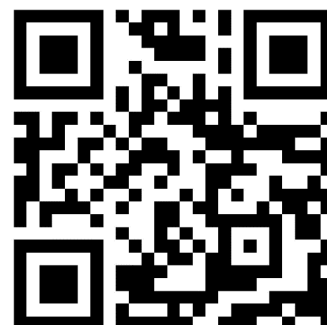
The Blanket Exercise is based on using Indigenous methodologies and the goal is to build understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada by walking through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance. Everyone is actively involved as they step onto blankets that represent the land, and into the role of First Nations, Inuit and later Métis peoples. By engaging on an emotional and intellectual level, the Blanket Exercise effectively educates and increases empathy. ([Kairos Blanket Exercise](#))

Where: Knights of Columbus Community Hall, Goderich

When: Saturday, September 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20 with refreshments provided

To register: complete [KBE Registration](#); use the QR code or email ermaweernink@gmail.com



Space is limited so register early!