



Huron County Historical Society

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www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca

Newsletter February 2022

Executive for 2020-2021

Vacant	President	519-440-6206	Ralph Laviolette	Secretary-treasurer
Vicky Culbert	Past- president		Mac Campbell	Director
Elaine Snell	Membership	519-523-9531	James White	Director
Mary Gregg	Director	519-524-9372	Susan Glousher	Director
Rhea Hamilton- Seeger	Director	519-612-1201	Larry Mohring	Director
			Liz Sangster	Director

February Program Takes Us Into The Woods

Building with Nature

The Natural Infrastructure of Huron County

February 16, 2022 at 7 p.m.

From unbroken forest cover to a highly advanced agricultural economy, join us for an insightful look at how Huron County's natural ecosystems have provided livelihood and resilience for generations past and present.

Our presenter David Pullen was born and raised in Huron County and has a thirty year combined background in agriculture and forestry across southwestern Ontario. A graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College at University of Guelph, he is a member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association and the Ontario Institute of Agrologists. Dave "returned to his roots" in 2011 as the County Forester in Huron where his role includes forest conservation and management along with outreach and extension services.

For getting the zoom link for February 16, 2022, 7 pm, all interested should email hchs1965@gmail.com to be notified of the login details.



*'There is no longer any place in Southern Ontario where one can experience mile after mile of travel on a 12 foot road in half light and little wind.' This sketch of a first settlement from the **Canada Company** by Thelma Coleman shows the density and richness of forest that the first settlers were confronted with.*

The Forests of Huron

The past two years have presented new challenges to us but in light of those faced by the first settlers to Huron we have little to complain about. The first surveyors through this land in 1828-1830 made note of the richness of the soils and noted the variety and abundance of trees in the forests.

John McDonald, travelled across the tract with Mahlon Burwell's party and headed two later survey crews, one to survey the actual route of the Huron Road and another to lay out a concession of farms along either side from Wilmot Township to Goderich. His fieldnote summary of the survey of the Huron Road presents a picture of what the land was like. McDonald made note of land levels, water sources and quality of soil, all essential information for settlers. Great stands of maple, beech, elm, basswood, some ironwood and black cherry were a challenge to the surveyors. Of course the forests would have to be cleared in a timely manner to get homes built and the first crops in the ground.

Settlers who were farmers, and those who could build mills and dams were on the priority list. But once the land was cleared not just in Huron, but across Ontario environmental issues or problems became evident. Land that should never have been cultivated, suffered erosion, constant water issues and of course degradation of soil with the development of intense farming practises. Forest management is now seen as a way to provide resilience to our farming communities and as one of our ways forward through the climate crisis facing everyone, a timely topic for everyone.

New life for Carlow Presbyterian Church

A couple have purchased the old church at Carlow and are interested in any history and photos that members of the Historical Community may offer. Please send any info to hchs1965@gmail.com

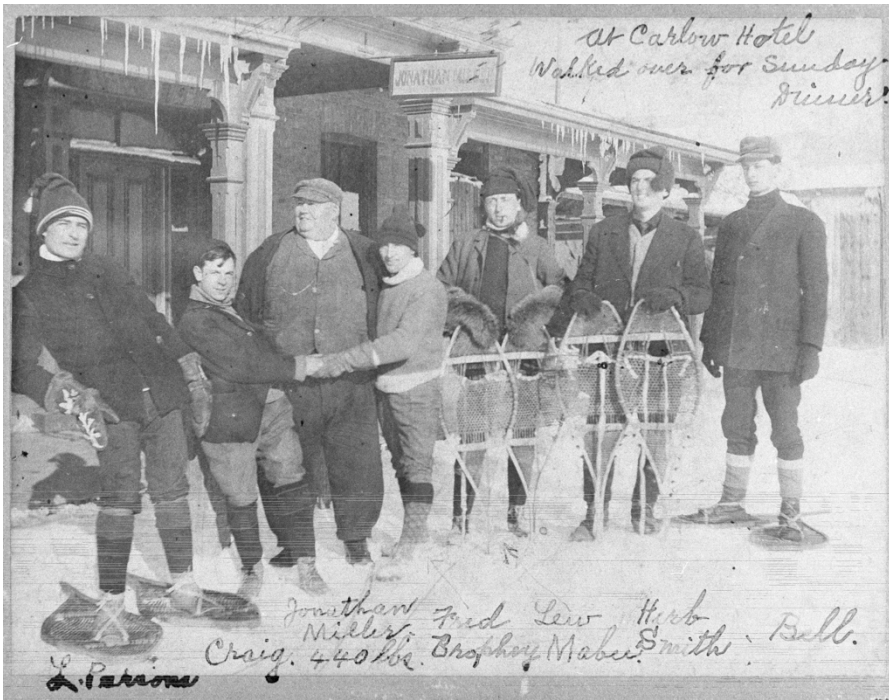
The Presbyterian Church was built in 1872 on the west side of County Road #1, just the north of the Carlow intersection – sadly, it has fallen into disrepair.

We do know that David Smith surveyed Colborne Township and received 300 acres of land at this location in payment for his work. Around 1850, he built a house and tavern here, and the corner thereafter became known as Smith's Hill.

In its heyday, Carlow was often referred to as the “municipal capital” of Colborne Township, as the Colborne Township Municipal Office was located at Carlow from 1868 to 1995. Carlow became a post office on June 1, 1853, and for many years the mail was provided by stage on a tri-weekly basis. To avoid confusion with other places bearing the name Smith, the name was changed to Carlow, after the Ireland birthplace of James McDonough who purchased land here from David Smith. The post office closed in May 1915.



Carlow Hotel – busy location! Note the lovely balcony on the front. Photo from John Hazlitt Collection



Winter in the township! Someone was careful to add some of the names of the young men who travelled by snowshoe to the hotel in Carlow: L. Parsons, Craig ? and Fred Brophy showing off the girth of Johnathan Miller (440 pounds) owner of the hotel, and Lew Mabec, Herb Smith and Bill? Photo courtesy of John Hazlitt Collection

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. **Email us about using e-transfer.** Copies of recent past Historical Notes are available from Elaine Snell at 519-523-9531 (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

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.

Mark Your Calendars

March 16th Zoom Meeting

The Land Between: An Overview of the Indigenous Archaeology of Huron County, Ontario

with Jim Sherratt