



Huron County Historical Society

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www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca

Newsletter October 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		

November 15, 2023 Zoom Talk 7 p.m.

Woman, Watching

*Louise de Kiriline Lawrence and the
Songbirds of Pimisi Bay*

Merilyn Simonds presents her most recent work, *Woman, Watching* (2022), an innovative memoir/biography of Louise de Kiriline Lawrence, an extraordinary recluse who changed the way we see birds. We learn about this amateur ornithologist who conducted the majority of her nature studies and writing from her property on Pimisi Bay in Northern Ontario. We will learn about the events, tragedies, and triumphs, from Sweden to Russia to Canada that shaped her remarkable life.

Merilyn Simonds started watching birds when she was seven, and she has been a writer for almost as long. Born on the Canadian Prairies, she grew up in Brazil, and published her first book at 29. She is now the author of 20 books, published internationally. She writes in a wide variety of genres—literary fiction, creative nonfiction, memoir, and travel.

With her husband, author Wayne Grady, she lives in Kingston, Ontario, during spring and summer and in the mountains of central Mexico in the cooler months, enjoying birds in both their breeding and wintering grounds. She watches birds wherever she is and sits on the Board of Directors of the Pelee Island Bird Observatory in Ontario, Canada.

Email hchs1965@gmail.com
for the Zoom Link

Everyone Welcome

From the editor's desk

Liz Sangster, A Community Powerhouse

Liz Sangster was one of our newest board members but was very steeped in Huron County History from an early age. Liz was the daughter of Janeth Sangster, one of the founding members of the Huron Historical Society and a Life Member.

Liz had many interests and devoted her time and talents to numerous community organizations and events; she never allowed her health challenges to stand in the way of giving one hundred percent of herself to the task at hand. She was a member of the Hensall Heritage Hall Committee and worked tirelessly to organize both fundraising events to restore the Hall and entertainment events at the Hall. She and a friend organized successful and entertaining parades for the Hensall Fair. Liz was also instrumental in developing, planning, and fundraising for the Jennie Smillie Parkette in downtown Hensall. Liz had a strong sense of history, an interest she shared with her mother and grandmother Simpson. She spent many hours researching projects for the Huron Historical Notes. She was also a member of the Bluewater Heritage Advisory Committee but sadly her illness and the pandemic made it increasingly more difficult to participate as fully as she would have liked. Liz was a prolific artist, her sketches and paintings featured beautiful floral and landscape themes and her sketches of family pets, family members and events have become treasured souvenirs. Liz's garden was her lifelong passion. She was a member of the Bluewater Community in Blooms Committee for many years. She studied to become a Master Gardener at Dalhousie University and was a member of the Stratford Master Gardeners. She was also a former President of the Hensall and Community Horticultural Society, a former Director of District 8 of the Ontario Horticultural Society and a speaker and accredited Flower Show judge. Recently, her personal garden was recognized by the Canadian Wildlife Federation as a Certified Wildlife-friendly Habitat.

Her latest project for the Historical Society was a plan for a cemetery tour with a restoration expert. Sadly Liz passed away September 20, 2023. We all miss her.



Goderich Bank issue of 1834 \$2/10 Shilling number "8430" - image courtesy of National Currency Collection

Goderich \$1 Bank Note

Everyone loves a good mystery especially when local history is involved. The Historical Society receives questions about local places, people and events and we try our best to help and point researchers in the right direction.

Between 2022 and 2023 Harold Brown and Cliff Beattie were on a quest to find more info about the Goderich Bank and in particular bank notes issued in 1834.

At that time Jim Mulhern had material on the Goderich Bank, which was located in the building that Lyons and Mulhern occupied (now Orr Insurance) on West Street. Mr. Brown visited Goderich and the Huron County Museum where archivist/curator Michael Molnar was able to add further to their article.

Harold and Cliff were tenacious and produced an article for the *Canadian Paper Money Society Journal* (CPMS Journal Vol 59, No 178 September 2023, pages 74-79). We have permission to reprint the article in our 2024 Notes.

But they are not done yet. The obscure \$1 bank note was last known to be in the collection of Clarence Walker in 1967. He grew up in Walkerton and perhaps has family still living in the area. Perhaps someone may be able to shed some light on Clarence Walker and his coin and bank note collection. The authors are still seeking an image of the \$1 bank note and will use any discretion requested for privacy if the current owner so wishes.

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.



J.W. (Jack) McLaren Notecards available.
Choose from 10 Huron County Scenes. \$3.00 each.
Please email: goucher@cabletx.on.ca or s.mclaren@me.com to arrange purchase.

Future Speakers

Still on our calendar, to be confirmed, is a speaker who 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.

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.

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 519-440-6206 (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.