



Newsletter - September 2025

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email: hchs1965@gmail.com www.HuronCountyHistoricalSociety.ca

An afternoon with author

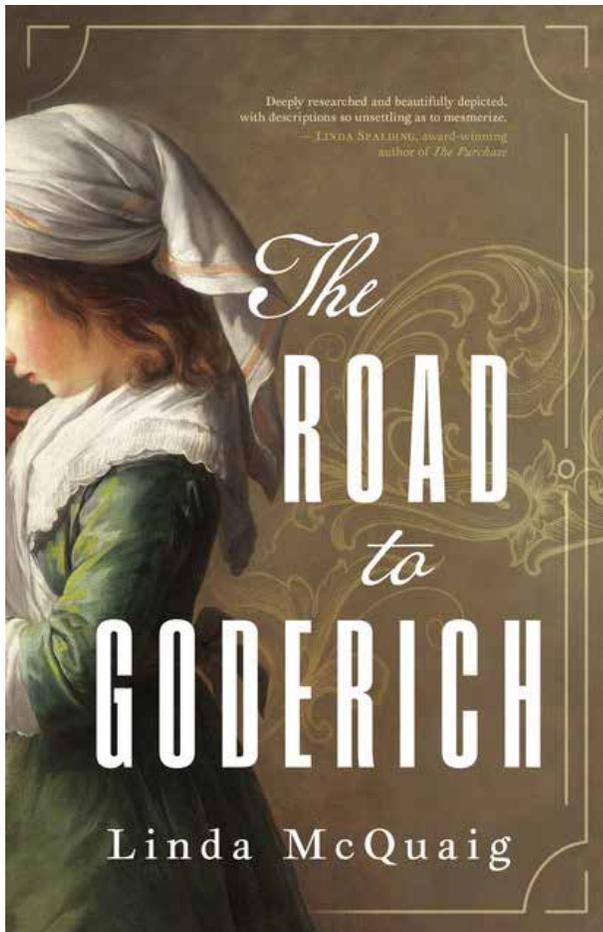
Linda McQuaig

Sunday September 14, 2025
at 2 p.m.

at the historic

Van Egmond House - Museum
80 Kippen Road

The Village Bookstore, of Bayfield,
will be on hand for book purchases



Off to Van Egmond House

It has been an incredibly busy summer. We saw some of you at Clinton's 150th, and later at Seaforth's 150th in August. Not to be out done Bluevale also celebrated their 150th in June as well. These communities grew out of the wilds of Huron with hard work and faith in the new life the land promised.

Our fall season kicks off with a book signing event (see left) at the historic Van Egmond House, in Egmondville. Just a quick note about Linda McQuaig. Some of you may be familiar with her investigative work. She is a well-known journalist and author of non-fiction books, including eight national bestsellers about how the wealthy and powerful dominate our politics. Linda won a National Newspaper Award for work that led to a public inquiry and the imprisonment of a political lobbyist. *The Road to Goderich* is a product of many years of dreaming and we are excited to see her first work of fiction featuring early settlement in Huron County.

We will be enjoying the new Britannia Picnic Pavilion. Its name honours the last Seaforth Masonic Lodge which was a major contributor to the pavilion project. A grant from the Huron County SLED Program (Support Local Economic Development) also provided financial assistance in the construction of the building. If you haven't had a chance to see this gracious home and grounds, there will be self-guided tours available. Volunteers at Van Egmond featured events during Seaforth's 150th followed with their two day breakfast. I hear no one left with an empty tummy! No rest in September as Van Egmond volunteers host their annual **Ciderfest September 28** between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. A great kick off for Fall.

Executive for 2025

David Armstrong - President 519-524-1156
Ralph Laviolette - Secretary-treasurer 519-440-6206
Elaine Snell - Membership 519-523-9434

Directors

• Mary Gregg 519-524-9372 • Susan Gloucher
• Rhea Hamilton- Seeger 519-612-1201 • Larry Mohring
• Mac Campbell • Ben Woodward

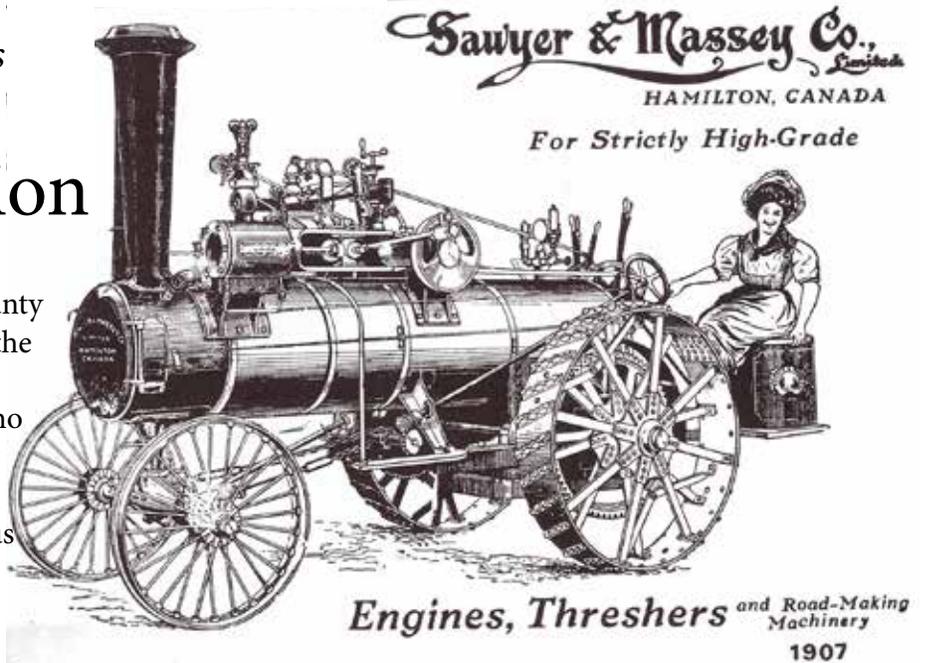
See You At The
Huron Pioneer Threshers
Sept. 5, 6, & 7

History in Motion

Your board members of the Huron County Historical Society have been attending the Thresher's event in Blyth for a few years now and we enjoy meeting everyone who drops by our exhibit behind the apple pressing building.

We are fortunate the organizers locate us under a deep overhang which offers shelter from both the sun and, last year, from cold drizzle.

A great crowd, which appreciates history, and we meet some interesting people with wonderful stories. You can pick up back issues, take out a membership or simply get your membership updated/renewed.



We have also been a regular at the Zurich Bean Festival held every August in, you guessed it, Zurich! Great food there too.

The Huron Historical Society has been publishing their Annual Notes since 1965 (Vol. 1 Early Government). Some years we have a selection of topics and others are dedicated to single topics like one room school houses in the County or the Women's Institutes. Marine Heritage has been popular as well as the Railroad issue.

If you have a topic we have not explored we would be happy to talk with you. Or you could become a new board member and be part of the fun of keeping our history alive in Huron. We are always looking for new ideas and we have a lot of fun. Our phone numbers are on the cover of this newsletter.



Under the overhang at the Threshers, top, is Mac Campbell talking to Larry Mohring. David Armstrong is sharing stories with two visitors. (2023)

We have to thank Elaine Snell and Marvin Snell for storing our back issues and managing the membership list. All this display could not happen without them. Larry Mohring, David Armstrong, Rhea Hamilton Seeger and Elaine Snell were managing the paper weights on the display last year. (2024)

Brussel's Logans Mill Still On Track To Become Special Museum

As members are aware, for some time the Maitland Mills Association has been attempting to acquire the two last existing and unused grist mills of the more than 65 mills that were built on the Maitland River in pioneer and early days. The Maitland is 50 kms long stretching from east of Palmerston and Mt Forest and empties into Lake Huron



at Goderich. In 2019, the Association hosted a Society general meeting in Brussels describing their projects and in 2022, published an extra edition of the Historical Notes titled Tale of Two Mills.

After much negotiating, the group was unsuccessful in acquiring the first targeted mill, Maguire Mill in Gorrie, before it was condemned and demolished.

The picture you see is the Logans Mill in Brussels. It was built in 1856. The group is patiently waiting for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority to transfer it to the Municipality of Huron East who will then sell it to the Association for \$1.

The group plans to rehabilitate the building and create a local public museum using artifacts retrieved from the two mills with stories and information about milling practices in pioneer times.

With the collaboration of the Society and the assistance from Community Futures Huron, it plans to raise about \$500,000 through grants and fund-raising. To acknowledge contributions, the group has applied for charitable status, expected shortly.

The Association has completed engineering studies, an environmental assessment, a five-year financial projection in a business plan, a media plan and a marketing plan, and it hopes to get started soon. Agreements between the parties have been made. The Association is expecting final purchase arrangements to be completed very shortly.

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.

We are making it easy to renew membership or simply to make a donation by using e-transfer. Send the e-transfer to: hchs1965@gmail.com

Copies of recent past Historical Notes are available, please email hchs1965@gmail.com (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

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.