



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
Phone: 705-571-3308
Email: info@burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com
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Heritage Centres
Watt Century Farm House
827 Chetwynd Road
Armour Township

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse
112 Midlothian Road
Ryerson Township

MINUTES
Burk's Falls & District Historical Society
Fell Homes, Burk's Falls
Monday, September 16, 2019

Members Present: Diane Brandt - President
Jarv Osborne – Treasurer
Charlene Watt - Secretary
Betty Caldwell
Bruce Campbell
Lorne Main
Lisa Morrison
Delynne Patterson
Judy Ransome
Mike Quinton

The Members present constituted a quorum.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Diane Brandt in the Chair.

Welcome:

Diane welcomed Members. Regrets from Nieves Guijarro, Vice-President.

Delegation:

None

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Acceptance and adoption of the August 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes as circulated: **Moved by Bruce Campbell, Seconded by Lorne Main. Carried**



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Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's / Financial Report presented by Jarv Osborne. Main bank account balance was \$8,513.16 on August 31, 2019. Expenses to date in September total \$5,362.70 for payroll, laptop, Munisoft support, and office supplies. Account balance effective September 16, 2019 is \$3,150.46. Deposits to be made include funds from the schoolhouse and \$200 from the Township of Armour for the Cookies with Mrs. Claus event. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Lorne Maine, Seconded by Betty Caldwell. Carried**

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: Lorne Main advised that the Historical Society is maintaining 19 paid Memberships for 2019.

Heritage Centres:

Betty Caldwell reported on the schoolhouse. The Red Hat Society attended the schoolhouse on Saturday, September 7, 2019 in the morning then travelled to the farm house for lunch. There were eleven ladies in the group. Susan Douglas, Queen of the Bonny Belles organized the event with Betty. The ladies were from Powassan, Astorville, Callandar, Bonfield, Sturgeon Falls and North Bay. Margaret Sieber visited the schoolhouse and is researching family history. Diane Brandt informed Members that there were no visitors on Friday, but two on Saturday at the schoolhouse during Harvest Fest in 2019 and the port-a-pottie needs to be pumped out.

Diane Brandt reported on the farm house and informed Members that she has been organizing and tidying the yard. The demolished shed wood is being moved into the barn and will be used in the spring to build a barn board wall in the garage.

Diane informed Members that the Heritage Centres will be closed for the season after September 28, 2019. Charlene Watt will arrange for the cases of water from Heritage Day to be removed by the Roads Department to make room for pumpkin carving at the Halloween Event.

Mike Quinton updated Members on the status of the newspaper archiving. All of the loose newspapers from the library have been sorted. We have newspapers from 1946-2015, a continuous run. We have about 110 individual issues of newspapers from 1885-1945.



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General Business:

1. *Correspondence:* Members reviewed a Facebook inquiry from Barb Emerson about the Partridge Family. She will be visiting Burk's Falls in July 2020. She would like to visit her mother's family home. Her name was Florence Mary and Barb's grandmother's name was Beatrice (Clubbe) Partridge. Mike Quinton and Betty Caldwell will research and respond to Barb. Mike Quinton referenced a postcard of a family photograph and Members discussed the location of Doctor Partridge's brick home on MacKenzie Street in Burk's Falls.
2. *Fall Fair:* Betty Caldwell reported. The fall fair was September 2, 2019. Display items for the table at the fair included the mystery box game of artifacts, newsletters, membership forms, mugs and history books for sale. We sold eight history books at the Fair. There was a lot of public interest at the table. Members were disappointed in the lack of vendors in the arena building.
3. *Halloween:* Diane Brandt has been in touch with Brad Crozier at Valu-Mart and requested pumpkins for the event. Diane will purchase treats and look into getting decorations from the Dollar Store. We are unable to confirm with the Warriners if they will be decorating the farmhouse for the haunted house. We will improvise with a softer themed haunted house if they cannot attend and we will offer trick or treating throughout the farm house like we did in the past. Diane Brandt, Bruce Campbell and Charlene Watt will decorate the farm house for Halloween on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 10 a.m. Lisa Morrison will reach out to the Warriners to see if they are able to loan us a few Halloween props. Charlene Watt will donate Halloween treats and crafts for the October 20, 2019 Haunted House Event. It will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
4. *Cookies with Mrs. Claus:* Members discussed the Christmas event of December 15, 2019. There will be no admission as the Township of Armour donated \$200. Members were asked to donate Christmas Cookies for children to decorate. Charlene will contact Tim Horton's and request a donation of hot chocolate. Nancy Kyte offered to donate royal icing again for 2019. Charlene has submitted the rental agreement to the Arena. Members are waiting to find out if we are able to use the facility free of charge for the afternoon. The request has been submitted to the Village of Burk's Falls Council and a decision will be made at their September Council Meeting.



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New Business:

Booklet: Bruce Campbell informed Members that he has compiled a lot of local historic information and is interested in creating a booklet on the History of Burk's Falls. Members supported Bruce's enthusiasm and are interested in seeing his first draft.

Honouring Dr. Wittick: Bruce Campbell updated Members on the status of naming the Theatre at Land of Lakes Public School, after Doctor M.A. Wittick. The request was defeated by the School Board; however, the Village of Burk's Falls has agreed to name the common room in the new Almaguin Manor after Dr. Wittick. The new Almaguin Manor was previously the M.A. Wittick Junior Public School.

Window Replacements: Diane Brandt provided Members with a list of contractors that will be sent a Request for Quote for window replacements and building envelope improvements for the farm house. The building improvements will be completed in 2020. The Township of Armour will include the estimate in their 2020 budget. Members inquired why the Township of Armour is allowing the Historical Society to take the lead on this building improvement as the building is municipally owned.

Christmas Potluck: The Christmas Potluck will be held on November 18, 2019 at Fell Homes at 6 p.m. Charlene Watt will provide a sign up list for menu items at the next meeting. Diane Brandt will invite the part-time employees and the summer student as well.

Other Business:

Lorne Main updated Members on the status of acknowledging the Knight Brothers in the community. The Village of Burk's Falls has erected two signs at the baseball diamond in Burk's Falls. The first sign acknowledges the Knight Brothers Park, the second sign acknowledges the Knight Brothers Camp Site on the grounds. No date has been set for an official unveiling at this time.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be Monday, October 21, 2019 at the Fell Homes at 7:00 p.m. There being no further business, **Lisa Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.**

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Secretary

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President