



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
Phone: 705-571-3308
Email: info@burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com
www.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, August 21, 2023

Members Present: Diane Brandt – President
Nieves Guijarro – Vice-President
Charlene Watt – Secretary
Ryan Baptiste
Kirk Du Guid
Jarv Osborne
Mike Quinton
George Sterling
Krista Trulsen

New Member: Barry Burton

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 Jenny Hall and Peter Hall.
New member, Barry Burton arrived at 7:09 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Acceptance and adoption of the July 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes as circulated: **Moved by Krista Trulsen, Seconded by Mike Quinton. Carried**

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's / Financial Report presented by Diane Brandt. Main bank account balance was \$11,336.12 on July 31, 2023. The lottery account balance remains at \$65.00. Donations from the popcorn booth at Heritage Festival could not be deposited to the account based on the rules for a lottery account. Heritage Festival donations totalling \$2,953.70, \$40.00 in memberships and \$78.00 for the popcorn donations were deposited.

Members discussed the status of the lottery account and agreed to close the account. A lottery has not been held by the Historical Society since Canada 150 (2017).



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Motion to close the lottery account with a balance of \$65.00 and transfer the funds to the general account. Moved by Mike Quinton, Seconded by Jarv Osborne. Carried

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by George Sterling, Seconded by Ryan Baptiste. Carried

Correspondence:

Members reviewed correspondence that was sent to Dundurn Press Limited Royalties Team from Carol Chuhay, the estate executor for Astrid Taim. Ms. Taim's two books are the Almaguin Chronicles: Memories of the Past and Almaguin: A Highland History. Royalty payments for Astrid TAIM's two books commencing January 2015 are to be directed to the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society. It was noted that the royalty balances under \$500 will be carried forward until the next royalty period.

Committee Reports:

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:

Members reported that there have been visitors to the schoolhouse and the season has been steady. Kirk advised Members that he will volunteer at the Schoolhouse on August 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Harvest Festival will be held on September 15 – 18, 2023 and if any Members are interested in opening the schoolhouse during this time, please contact Diane. Traffic passes the Heritage Centre but Members were unsure if people would stop on the way to or from the event.

Watt Farm House Update:

Members were updated on the visitor status of the Farm House's season to date. A reminder was provided of the metal detecting demonstrations that will be held on Sunday, August 27, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Schoolhouse will be closed on August 27, 2023. The summer student, Kristoffer has been researching artifacts and is in the process of organizing a fall fair display. The Knight Bros. displays are on exhibit and a new exhibit is being investigated for 2024. Consideration of opening the Farm House during the winter by appointment only was discussed.

Heritage Festival Update:

Charlene provided a final written report to Members on the July 8, 2023 event. The report included comments from the public, recommendations for improvements and budget adjustments for the Council of the Township of Armour to consider. Members agreed to extending the hours of the event but the exact times will be considered in early 2024.



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General Business:

Summer Student: Diane advised Members that Kristoffer Trulsen-Hunt, our summer student, will complete his employment on Thursday, August 31, 2023. Members wished Kristoffer success in his future ventures.

Fall Fair: The Fall Fair will be held on Monday, September 4, 2023. Display items for the table at the fair will include the mystery box game of artifacts, newsletters and membership forms. The donation jar and large banner poster will be picked up from the Farm House before the event. Volunteers consist of Diane Brandt, Kirk Du Guid and Krista Trulsen. Krista will be available after noon. Diane will obtain information from the event co-ordinator regarding setup instructions.

New Business:

Indigenous Collaboration Opportunity: Members reviewed a proposal from the Magnetawan River Nature Hub to host an event at the Wiseman Corner Schoolhouse. The Restoration Festival is to be held on October 14 and 15, 2023 and the Nature Hub has an idea related to the Wiseman's Schoolhouse property involving a local Indigenous Knowledge Keeper that they have partnered with. The proposed structure is a birch teepee and would not need to be permanent, but could be used for additional Indigenous education opportunities in case visitors to the site are interested. Members were very supportive of the request and asked that the Historical Society also be named as additional insured by the Nature Hub. Mayor George Sterling advised Members that the request will be discussed at the Township of Ryerson's next Council Meeting. **Motion to support the initiative from Colin Love from the Magnetawan River Nature Hub to host a Restoration Festival on October 14 - 15, 2023 at the Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse property, subject to the naming of the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society as an additional insured and that the Magnetawan River Nature Hub receives approval from the Township of Ryerson for the use of the property. In addition, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Township of Ryerson. Moved by Mike Quinton, Seconded by Ryan Baptiste. Carried**

Yearbooks: The Sundridge Strong Union Public Library has a post on social media offering Almaguin Highlands Secondary School yearbooks for sale from the years of 1984 – 2014 at a fee of \$10.00 per book. Members agreed to purchase the books. Nieves will reach out to the librarian to determine if a discount could be received for the Historical Society. Mike Quinton offered to pick up the books. **Motion to purchase 25 years of the Almaguin Highlands Secondary School yearbooks, from the years of 1984 to 2014, at a cost of \$10.00 each**



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from the Sundridge Strong Union Public Library. Moved by George Sterling, Seconded by Krista Trulsen.

Halloween Event: Members discussed hosting a Halloween event for 2023. Due to limited space at the Farm House and the construction of the new red building, it was suggested that the Historical Society request to participate in the Lions Club's Halloween Party that they host annually on Halloween night at the Arena. Ryan Baptiste will inquire with the Lions Club and advise. Charlene offered to volunteer and Diane would pre-package 300 treat bags.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2023 at Fell Homes. There being no further business, **Jarv Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.**

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Secretary &
Deputy Treasurer

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President