



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
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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
REGULAR MEETING
Burk's Falls & District Historical Society
Armour Township Council Chambers, Burk's Falls
Monday, August 17, 2026**

Members Present: Diane Brandt – President
Barry Burton – Vice President
Jarv Osborne – Vice President/Deputy Treasurer
Charlene Watt – Deputy Treasurer/Secretary
Nancy Kyte
Mike Quinton
Lynn McGregor
Leo Petipas
Krista Trulsen
Ben Collings (New Member)

The Members present constituted a quorum.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Regrets from Peter Hall.
Diane Brandt in the Chair.

Welcome:

Diane welcomed Members.

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Acceptance of minutes and adoption of the July 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes as circulated:
Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Nancy Kyte. Carried

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's/Financial Report was presented by Jarv Osborne.

The balance of the main bank account as of July 1, 2026, was \$12,982.07. During the reporting period, total expenses amounted to \$201.37, including hardware store purchases and invoice payments for office supplies to the Township of Armour. Total revenue for the month was \$695.00, consisting of \$115.00 in donations and \$580.00 registrations for the Psychic Days.



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The bank account balance on July 31, 2026 was \$13,605.31. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Krista Trulsen, Seconded by Nancy Kyte. Carried**

Correspondence:

Diane Brandt advised she received correspondence advising that Net Spectrum has been taken over by Vianet effective August 1, 2026.

Committee Reports:

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:

Jordan Wilson was hired for the position and will work Fridays and Saturdays from July 10 to August 29. Regular weekend visitors have been reported, and day camp participants have also attended the property. The summer student advised the President that a bear was observed on the property on one occasion.

Watt Farm House Update:

Members received an update on summer operations and activities at the Heritage Centre. Regular visitors have continued to attend, and summer student Lily Kyte has taken on several projects and contributed to the ongoing operations of the Centre. Plans are underway to rearrange the furniture to accommodate a settee and improve the use of available space. Members noted that the Heritage Centre has reached capacity for the display and storage of additional artifacts. Over the past month, two members of the Watt family visited the Heritage Centre: Karen Kirk-White and Logan Watt. Logan attended with several college friends. Karen provided additional information regarding the historical sleeping arrangements of the Watt family. Diane will document the bedroom allocations for future reference and display the information in the respective bedrooms. Psychic Days have been very successful, with bookings filling quickly. Members noted that this type of programming is well received by the public and has proven to be an effective fundraising initiative.

Membership Committee:

No report was presented. However, Ben Collings paid for a family membership at the beginning of the meeting. The membership payment and accompanying documentation were provided to the Treasurer for processing and record-keeping.

Facilities and Function Committee:

Barry Burton, F&F Committee representative reported on an email that was received from the Township of Armour's CAO: NECO has confirmed that up to \$1,500 in Community Economic Development Funds remains available to support an update to the Historical Society's plan, with Karen Jones Consulting estimating a cost of \$3,000–\$5,000 depending on the level of



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public consultation. To proceed, the Historical Society must approve a project budget by resolution, decide whether to retain Karen Jones Consulting or seek other consultants, and review the previous plan at an upcoming meeting, after which the CAO can apply for the \$1,500 in funding.

Members discussed the email and the current state and condition of the Red Building and expressed concern that the building is not presently in a condition that would allow it to be safely and effectively used for public access, programming, or the display of historical artifacts. Members reiterated that appropriate heating is essential to ensure the building is functional and to protect the Society's artifacts from potential damage caused by unsuitable environmental conditions. It was noted that, despite the Society's previous resolution of February 16, 2026, offering up to \$5,000 toward the installation of a heating system if needed, there has been no further progress toward addressing the heating requirement. Members emphasized that the Red Building needs to be completed and made functional before the Society can proceed with public use of the facility or finalize its strategic planning for the future. The Society remains willing to work cooperatively with the Township of Armour to resolve the outstanding issues and bring the building into a suitable condition for public access and the safe display and preservation of artifacts.

The Secretary temporarily left the meeting to prepare the resolution as discussed and directed by the Members. The Secretary returned to the meeting and presented the resolution to the Members.

Motion to address the Township of Armour's Red Building Project: Moved by Krista Trulsen, Seconded by Mike Quinton; WHEREAS the Township of Armour received grant funding for the Red Building project;

AND WHEREAS the Red Building project was undertaken by the Township of Armour, including the hiring and direction of the contractor, and was therefore a Township project;

AND WHEREAS members of the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society participated in discussions regarding the intended use, function, and presentation of the Red Building, and the building ultimately constructed does not reflect the project as it was presented or discussed with members of the Historical Society;

AND WHEREAS the Historical Society requires a properly heated and functional building in order to safely display, store, preserve, and protect its artifacts and collections from potential damage caused by unsuitable environmental conditions;

AND WHEREAS on February 16, 2026, the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society passed a resolution to contribute \$5,000 toward the installation of the heating system in the Red Building.



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AND WHEREAS the Historical Society remains willing to contribute up to \$5,000 toward the installation of a suitable heating system, if required, subject to appropriate arrangements with the Township of Armour;

AND WHEREAS the Historical Society believes that the Red Building must first be completed, heated, made functional for the use of the public and members, and capable of safely accommodating and displaying artifacts before the Society can reasonably commit to a comprehensive strategic plan for its future operations, collections, exhibits, and public programming;

AND WHEREAS the Historical Society is willing and prepared to undertake a strategic planning process once the Red Building has been brought to a functional and suitable condition, including the installation and operation of an appropriate heating system and the completion of any outstanding work necessary for public access and the safe display and preservation of artifacts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society respectfully requests that Council of the Township of Armour:

1. ****Commit to completing the Red Building project**** and bringing the building to a finished, functional condition consistent with its intended purpose as a public historical and community facility;
2. ****Commit to ensuring that the Red Building is appropriately heated**** and maintained at conditions suitable for the safe storage, preservation, and display of historical artifacts;
3. ****Identify and complete all outstanding work**** required to make the Red Building safe, functional, accessible, and suitable for public access and historical exhibits;
4. ****Provide the Historical Society with a clear written outline of the remaining work****, including anticipated timelines, responsibilities, and any outstanding requirements necessary to bring the building into public use;
5. ****Recognize that the Historical Society's commitment to a strategic planning process is dependent upon the Red Building first being completed and made functional****, as the Society requires a suitable facility in which to display and protect its artifacts and establish its future operational priorities;
6. ****Acknowledge the Historical Society's previously approved potential contribution of up to \$5,000 toward the heating system****, as authorized by the Society's February 16, 2026 resolution, and work collaboratively with the Society to determine whether and how that contribution may be applied;
7. ****Work collaboratively with the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society**** to establish a mutually understood plan for the completion, operation, public access, and future use of the Red Building; and
8. ****Commit to continued communication and consultation with the Historical Society**** regarding outstanding work on the Red Building and its transition to a functional public historical facility.



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society confirms its willingness to work cooperatively with the Township of Armour toward the successful completion and public opening of the Red Building and, once the building is heated, functional, and suitable for the safe display and preservation of artifacts, to undertake a strategic planning process to guide the Society's future activities and use of the facility.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Council of the Township of Armour for consideration and response. **Carried**

Motion to proceed with the development of a strategic plan: Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Leo Petipas; WHEREAS the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society recognizes the importance of maintaining a current strategic plan to guide the Society's activities, priorities, programming, partnerships, and long-term sustainability;

AND WHEREAS the Society previously developed a 2014 Business Plan, which provides a foundation and historical reference for the Society's organizational development and future planning;

AND WHEREAS the Society wishes to update and build upon the previous business planning work to establish a current strategic plan that reflects the Society's present needs, priorities, and opportunities;

AND WHEREAS Karen Jones Consulting has indicated that its team is available to provide a cost-effective and high-quality update to the Society's previous plan, with the scope and cost to be influenced by the level of public and community consultation desired by the Society;

AND WHEREAS the Northeast Community Opportunities (NECO) Community Economic Development Funds have confirmed that funding remains available and have encouraged the Society to submit an application for funding of up to \$1,500 toward the project;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society approve the development of an updated Strategic Plan, informed by and building upon the Society's 2014 Business Plan;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Society approve **an additional project budget** of \$1,500, subject to final confirmation of the scope of work and level of community consultation;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Society authorize the submission of an application to the NECO Community Economic Development Funds for up to \$1,500 toward the cost of the strategic planning project;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Diane Brandt, President, on behalf of the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society, be authorized to communicate with Karen Jones Consulting **or another authorized consultant** and NECO and to take the necessary steps to advance the project and funding application. **Carried**



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Fundraising Committee:

Nancy Kyte and Lily Kyte provided an update on the status of submissions for the cookbook fundraiser. It was agreed that there continues to be a lack of participation from the public at this time and the deadline for submissions will be removed to encourage community engagement.

General Business:

Support Resolution: Beacons of Light British Home Children & Child Migrants:

Members reviewed a press release from the British Home Children Advocacy and Research Association (BHCARA) regarding the "Beacons of Light British Home Children & Child Migrants Sesquicentennial International Tribute," recognizing the more than 100,000 British Home Children and Child Migrants sent to Canada between 1869 and 1948. The initiative encourages communities to participate in a September 28 tribute by illuminating buildings, monuments, or other landmarks in red, white, and blue and/or proclaiming British Home Child Day, in recognition of the significant contributions and difficult experiences of these children and their descendants. **Motion to support the Beacons of Light for British Home Children and Child Migrants Tribute: Moved by Nancy Kyte, Seconded by Krista Trulsen;** That the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society supports the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand and the Township of Armour in the "Beacons of Light for British Home Children and Child Migrants Tribute"; and

That the Historical Society requests the Province of Ontario continue to support initiatives that recognize, educate and preserve the history; and

That the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society respectfully urges the Government of Canada to issue a formal public apology to the British Home Children and Child Migrants and their families for Canada's role in the British Child Migration Scheme. **Carried**

Fall Fair:

Diane Brandt advised Members that the Historical Society will host an information booth at the Fall Fair in September and will be located in the Vendors' Market to increase the Society's visibility, engage with the public, and promote its programs and membership. The following members advised that they will attend the Fall Fair and assist with the information booth: Mike Quinton, Lynn McGregor, Ben Collings and Diane Brandt. **Motion to approve the purchase of a canopy tent at a maximum cost of \$400: Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Mike Quinton, Carried**



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New Business:

Quilt Raffle:

Members discussed the possibility of hosting a raffle at the Fall Fair, featuring a quilt as the prize. The Secretary advised Members of the applicable lottery licensing requirements and the need to ensure that any raffle conducted by the Society complies with all relevant regulations and licensing requirements. Following discussion, Members agreed to place the proposed raffle on hold pending further investigation into the licensing requirements, eligibility, and any associated administrative obligations. The matter will be brought forward for further consideration once the necessary information has been obtained.

Tombstone at the Schoolhouse:

Members discussed the tombstone of D.F. Burk, which is currently located at the schoolhouse. D.F. Burk was the father of David Francis "Frank" Burk III, recognized as the founder of the Village of Burk's Falls. The tombstone was previously removed from a cemetery in Seguin; however, it cannot presently be returned as the municipality has advised that the location of D.F. Burk's grave in the former cemetery is unknown. Members discussed the possibility of relocating the tombstone to the Burk's Falls Cemetery and placing it with his son's grave. Jarv Osborne and Charlene Watt cautioned Members that the municipal cemetery by-law may restrict the placement of multiple headstones on a single plot and that two headstones on one burial plot may not be permitted. Jarv also noted that David Burk's gravesite is enclosed by decorative chain fencing, which needs repair. Jarv agreed to investigate the applicable cemetery requirements and the options for the tombstone and fencing and will report back to Members.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 21, 2026 at the Armour Township Council Chambers. There being no further business, Jarv Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Deputy-Treasurer/Secretary

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President