



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0  
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[www.burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com](http://www.burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com)  
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Heritage Centres  
Watt Century Farm House  
827 Chetwynd Road  
Armour Township  

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Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse  
112 Midlothian Road  
Ryerson Township

## MINUTES

### Burk's Falls & District Historical Society

### Fell Homes, Burk's Falls

### Monday, February 16, 2026

Members Present: Diane Brandt – President  
Jarv Osborne – Vice President  
Jenny Hall - Treasurer  
Charlene Watt – Secretary / Deputy Treasurer  
Nieves Guijarro  
Krista Trulsen  
Peter Hall  
Nancy Kyte  
Barry Burton  
Jarv Osborne

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.

#### **Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Acceptance and adoption of the November 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes as circulated: **Moved by Krista Trulsen, Seconded by Nancy Kyte. Carried**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer's / Financial Report presented by Jenny Hall. The Treasurer reported that the main bank account balance was \$7,037.50 as of November 1, 2025, and \$8,227.17 as of January 31, 2026. During this period, expenses totaled \$383.79, including \$186.30 for internet and telephone services, \$151.83 for office materials, and \$17.20 for courier fees. Revenue received during the same period included \$1,545.00 from the Heritage Organization



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Development Grant (HODG) and a \$100.00 donation, resulting in an overall increase in the account balance. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Barry Burton. Carried**

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:

The heritage centre has been closed for the season.

#### Watt Farm House Update:

Diane Brandt advised members that she checks in on the farm house on a regular basis.

#### Membership Committee:

Peter Hall advised members that 2026 memberships will be due prior to the Annual General Meeting scheduled for March. Memberships received at the meeting included Charlene Watt and family, Krista Trulsen, Barry Burton, Jarv Osborne, Diane Brandt, and Nieves Guijarro. Peter will circulate an email to current members notifying them of the upcoming membership renewal deadline and providing details regarding the Annual General Meeting.

#### Facilities and Functions Committee:

The Facilities and Function Committee met on February 4, 2026, to discuss heating requirements for the Red Building. The discussion included input from the Township of Armour's CAO. It was confirmed that Armour Township will complete the required heat loss study. A quotation from Tasso Lake Heating in the amount of \$17,301.11 plus HST was selected as the preferred option for the heating installation. It was also suggested that any cost savings realized through a reduction in the Heritage Festival budget by Armour Township could be allocated toward capital improvements at the Watt Century Farm House property.

A resolution was presented to the Members outlining the furnace replacement quotations for the Red Building and identifying next steps. Members agreed that Barry Burton would attend a Township of Armour Council meeting as a delegation to seek clarification on how the heating requirements for the Red Building will be addressed. As the property is owned by the Township, the Historical Society may be able to contribute up to \$5,000 toward the project; however, it does not have sufficient funds to cover the full cost. Members expressed concern regarding investing capital funds in a property not owned by the Historical Society. While it was acknowledged that heating in the building is necessary, Members emphasized that the Society does not have the financial capacity to assume full responsibility for the project.



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Diane Brandt advised Members that the Society's laptop was experiencing charging issues and was no longer operating reliably. Given the importance of having dependable computer equipment for administrative and operational purposes, MuniSoft replaced the battery.

**Moved by Nancy Kyte, Seconded by Jenny Hall; WHEREAS the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society has received three quotes for the installation of a heating system in the Red Building, with estimated costs ranging from \$19,550.00 to \$22,343.83, as reviewed by the Functions and Facility Committee;**  
**AND WHEREAS the Historical Society has a current bank balance of \$8,373.97, and estimates that the cost of a summer employee in 2026 will be approximately \$3,500, to be supplemented by a Federal Grant through Young Canada Works (grant approval is pending and will be determined in February/March 2026);**  
**AND WHEREAS the Society has received a \$5,000 donation from the Township of Armour, which will be used for operational expenses;**  
**BE IT RESOLVED that the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society may contribute \$5,000 toward the installation of the heating system in the Red Building, if needed.**  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Society will continue to monitor the outcome of the Young Canada Works grant application and will adjust financial plans based on its success or failure in securing funds for the summer employee position. Carried**

### **Correspondence:**

Diane Brandt advised Members that a social media feature recognizing Heritage Week was received from the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. Diane responded to the correspondence and provided information highlighting the Historical Society's heritage centres.

### **General Business:**

#### **Annual General Meeting & Election of Directors Notice:**

Charlene Watt advised members that a public notice was circulated the first week of February, 2026 to advise of the AGM per the terms of our new constitution. The notice was posted to the website and Facebook. Nieves Guijarro has posted the public notice at the library as well. The AGM will be held on March 16, 2026.

#### **Consent to Act as a First Director:**

Members were informed that a form must be completed to be a Director of a non-profit organization. In a director's consent, an individual agrees in writing to be a director. Every director who is elected or appointed needs to sign a consent and it must be signed within 10 days of being elected or appointed as a director. Once completed, the form is submitted to the



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Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery. Charlene Watt will contact Mike Quinton to file the documents. Jenny will follow up with the insurance company after the election and provide the new list of directors and executives.

Parry Sound Life Magazine Article by Andrew Hind:

Jarv Osborne circulated a copy of the Parry Sound Life Magazine Article about the Burk Family dated December, 2025 that was written by Andrew Hind. The Burk family holds the rare distinction of founding two communities in the District of Parry Sound: Seguin Falls and Burk's Falls. Beginning with David Francis Burk Jr., whose temperance hotel along the Nipissing Colonization Road sparked the growth of Seguin Falls, and continuing with his son Frank, who established Burk's Falls around the Magnetawan River, hotels served as the cornerstone of both settlements. Though financial success proved elusive and both hotels ultimately disappeared, the Burks' vision and perseverance left a lasting legacy in the region's history. A copy of the article has also been shared to our website.

Audit of the Books:

Diane Brandt advised Members that auditors are needed for the review of the fiscal year end's financial statement. Jarv Osborne and Krista Trulsen agreed to audit the Treasurer's books.

Heritage Festival 2026:

Members discussed the February 10, 2026 resolution from the Township of Armour refocusing Heritage Festival to reflect a heritage-based mandate and reduced budget model. Members preferred to see funds from the Township directed to capital investments at the Watt Farm House. Members will contact the Township of Armour's Recreation Department regarding Heritage Festival 2026 to plan a smaller community event. A Heritage Festival Committee was created to represent the Historical Society consisting of Barry Burton, Nancy Kyte and Peter Hall.

A resolution was passed to support the discussion. **Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Peter Hall; THAT the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society supports the Council of the Township of Armour directing staff to refocus the Heritage Festival to better reflect a heritage-based mandate, including a direct connection to the Watt Century Farm House Museum and Armour Township heritage assets; AND FURTHER THAT the Society supports directing staff to explore alternative locations within Armour Township, revised programming, and a scaled budget model for Council's consideration prior to the 2026 budget deliberations; AND FURTHER THAT the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society respectfully requests that Council consider investing funds allocated for the celebration into capital improvements for the Red Building at the Watt Century Farm House Heritage Centre,**



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thereby strengthening the long-term sustainability and functionality of this important heritage site;

**AND FURTHER THAT the Society supports refocusing the event in coordination with the Township of Armour's Recreation Department to ensure effective planning, community engagement, and alignment with the Township's heritage objectives. Carried**

### **New Business:**

#### **Change of Monthly Meeting Venue:**

Jarv Osborne provided Members with a follow-up to the discussion held in November 2025 regarding meeting space. Charlene Watt advised that the matter was brought forward to an Armour Council meeting for their consideration and the request for use of the Council Chambers for the monthly Historical Society meeting was approved. Members reviewed the Council resolution. The facility was noted to offer several advantages, including improved parking availability, an accessible entrance, and adequate exterior lighting for evening meetings. Members expressed their appreciation to Armour Township Council for its continued support and cooperation. **Motion to move the monthly meetings of the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society to the Township of Armour's Council Chambers effective March, 2026: Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Peter Hall. Carried**

Members discussed formally expressing their gratitude to Fell Homes for generously permitting use of the common room since the establishment of the Historical Society. Members were invited to consider a creative and meaningful token of appreciation to present to Fell Homes and to bring forward their suggestions at a future meeting for further discussion.

### **Adjournment:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, 2026 at the Township of Armour Council Chambers, 56 Ontario Street, Burk's Falls. There being no further business, **Krista Trulsen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.**

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Recorded by  
Charlene Watt, Secretary &  
Deputy Treasurer

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Approved by  
Diane Brandt, President