



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  

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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, January 22, 2024

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

The Members present constituted a quorum.

#### **Call to Order:**

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

#### **Welcome:**

Diane welcomed Members. Regrets from Jenny Hall, Barry Burton and Ryan Baptiste.

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

Acceptance and adoption of the November 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes as circulated: **Moved by Kirk Du Guid, Seconded by George Sterling. Carried**

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

Treasurer's / Financial Report presented by Diane Brandt. Main bank account balance was \$11,289.72 on November 29, 2023. Deposits in November included \$173.75 for miscellaneous items and the HODG Grant of \$1545.00. December's account balance at month end was \$10,458.22 with expenses of \$65.00 for the OHS Membership, \$100.00 donation to the Santa Claus Parade, \$100.00 donation to the Lions Club, \$10.00 to the Sundridge Public Library for a yearbook purchase and \$500.06 for the vacuum and miscellaneous items. There were no deposits in December. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Krista Trulsen, Seconded by Jarv Osborne. Carried**



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## **Committee Reports:**

### **Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:**

The heritage centre has been closed for the season. Diane plans to check on the building in the coming weeks.

### **Watt Farm House Update:**

Diane advised that the kitchen is full of donations. Members expressed gratitude to the families that are sharing family treasures.

Diane met with Travis Shaw, a student that is doing a museum study and researching the curation of exhibits in heritage centres. Travis toured the heritage centre on January 14, 2024.

The new steel building construction is coming along. Diane advised Members of the purpose of the building that replaced the red shed. Although the structure will store some items, such as the newspaper collection, the intent is to extend displays into the building and open it to public viewing. Display items to date will include artifacts from emergency services, health care, animal trapping and railway tools. The Knight Brothers display cabinet will also be moved out to the new building to allow for a general store set up. There are no windows in the new building which will allow for a permanent display of artifacts.

### **Archives Report:**

Members reviewed Mike Quinton's December 2023 year end archives report and guide to the holdings which details the Historical Society's collections. Sorting and collecting of artifacts will continue.

### **Membership Renewals:**

The following Members renewed their memberships for 2024: Jarv Osborne, Kirk Du Guid, Krista Trulsen, George Sterling and Mary Sterling, Charlene Watt, Cam Watt and Logan Watt.

## **Correspondence:**

Diane advised Members of Correspondence inquiries that have been dealt with: an inquiry from Ryan Grant seeking information on a death notice for Mary Taylor who died in November 2022 and an inquiry by Cyndi Culbert regarding information on the Red Cross Hospital. A donation of a post card of the Swing Bridge circa 1920s – 1940s was noted.

Nieves Guijarro advised Members of an inquiry that she received regarding the history on the Midlothian School House. Diane will investigate and advise.



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## **General Business:**

### **Township of Ryerson – 2024 Annual Donation:**

Members reviewed the December 12, 2023 resolution by the Township of Ryerson agreeing to a donation of \$500.00 to the Historical Society in addition to the annual in-kind donation for maintenance of the Wiseman Corner's Schoolhouse. Members thanked the Township for their continued support.

### **Christmas Facebook Contest:**

Charlene Watt updated Members on the success of the first Christmas Facebook Contest of voting on a favourite caption of an image. The winner was Rebecca Kennedy with seven votes on her caption of "Getting the Christmas tree, to make memories." Rebecca received a gift basket of treats, a poinsettia, a gift card to Valu-Mart and two history books. The post had 854 post impressions.

## **New Business:**

### **Heritage Festival 2024:**

Members discussed Heritage Festival 2024 and agreed to the following: dunk tank will be rented again, new hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a one-hour extension, a tractor display on the field by the poultry barn, forego opening ceremony speeches but keep the singing of O' Canada, and seek out a psychic tent or tarot card reader. A cooling station was suggested.

Members reviewed the Township of Armour's draft budget for the event. The budget has increased by \$5,300 due to the extension of the hours. An in-town shuttle service is being investigated but is not included in the budget. Charlene Watt is hopeful to obtain government funding for the service.

Permission for use of the Fairgrounds has been received from the Agricultural Society and the Village of Burk's Falls. Members are appreciative of the continued community support.

### **New Programs:**

Krista Trulsen suggested that the Schoolhouse offer story telling days to increase the site's attendance for 2024. The idea would involve readings of past newspaper articles, sharing of local stories and educational sessions of specific artifacts. Members were open to the idea and asked Krista to investigate and report back with a plan for the 2024 operating season.



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**Adjournment:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, 2024 at Fell Homes. The regular scheduled meeting of the third Monday of the month conflicted with many schedules as it is Family Day. There being no further business, **George Sterling moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.**

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Recorded by  
Charlene Watt, Secretary &  
Deputy Treasurer

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Approved by  
Diane Brandt, President