



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, July 17, 2023

Members Present:

- Diane Brandt – President
- Nieves Guijarro – Vice-President
- Charlene Watt – Secretary
- Ryan Baptiste
- Kirk Du Guid
- Judy Ransome
- Jenny Hall
- Peter Hall
- Mike Quinton
- Krista Trulsen
- Kristoffer Trulsen-Hunt

The Members present constituted a quorum.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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 June 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes as circulated: **Moved by Ryan Baptiste, Seconded by Jenny Hall. Carried**

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

Treasurer's / Financial Report presented by Diane Brandt. Main bank account balance was \$9,098.78 on June 30, 2023. The lottery account balance remains at \$65.00 but will have donations from the popcorn booth at Heritage Festival deposited to the account. Heritage Festival donations also included: \$2,258.60 from the front gate and \$491.10 from the Dunk-A-Politician dunk tank. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Nieves Guijarro, Seconded by Ryan Baptiste. Carried**



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## **Committee Reports:**

### **Heritage Festival Update:**

Charlene thanked and congratulated Members on a successful event. The venue change increased attendance and has impacted local businesses positively. Responses were received from visitors/participants on the event's success with appreciation of offering free admission and providing everyone an opportunity to participate. The event continues to promote a strong sense of community. Historical Society and Armour were supported by Agricultural Society, Village of Burk's Falls, Legion and businesses all over Almaguin in hosting the event. Largest contributors to the event outside of the Township were Jim Percy (car show), Sabina Hooper (705.Blackfly) Reg Garnett (Asylum Hotrods) and Karen Fraser (vendors market). The Southeast Almaguin Firefighters continued to host the annual Firefighter Challenge and to bring in a large crowd, provide EMS at the event, set up the music stage and provide attractions/cooling station for the crowd.

Estimated Attendance: 2,000 +.

Car Show: Registered 80 vehicles with over 120 in attendance on event day.

Vendors Market: 29 in 2022, 54 on the field plus 9 food vendors = 63 in 2023.

Firefighter Challenge: Kearney won 2023 Challenge.

Social Media: April – July event promoting reached approx. 39,093 people.

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

Diane advised that the Heritage Centre has been cleaned and small display changes are being made. A display on Screaming Heads will be recreated. Mike Quinton will investigate Almaguin News archives and attempt to locate the August 27, 2008 Screaming Heads newspaper article that will need to be reprinted for the exhibit. Nieves will contact the Township of Ryerson to request a replacement Canadian flag at the schoolhouse. Members discussed volunteering at the Heritage Centre. Krista will volunteer on July 20, 22, 23, 27 and 29. Kirk will volunteer on August 19 and 26. The Centre will be open by chance on August 5 and 12. Mike will volunteer on September 2. Opening hours are 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursdays and 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

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

The summer student, Kristoffer, has been working on relabelling artifacts and to update accession records. The Knight Brothers display is nearly complete and will soon be on full display for the season. Betty Caldwell attended the Heritage Centre and was the first person to try out the new stairlift. Betty was able to view the bedroom that was dedicated to her on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2022.



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### **Correspondence:**

Members were informed of correspondence that was received after a visit by Jenny Watt-Dawson and ElleAura Watt. Jenny is Pearl's granddaughter. ElleAura is Pearl's great-granddaughter. ElleAura is the daughter of Trevor Watt. Jenny sent a package of receipts, tax bills, duplicate deed, telegram message, etc. The items date back to 1914.

### **General Business:**

#### **Amendment to the Historical Society's Constitution:**

A follow up motion was discussed by Members. Effective July 17, 2023, the Constitution will be amended to reflect:

#### **1) ARTICLE 9 - SECRETARY**

The exact wording to read as follows:

"A Deputy Treasurer will temporarily assume the Treasurer's duties when the latter is unable to perform them, continuing until the Treasurer is able to resume his/her duties or until a new Treasurer has been appointed. The Deputy Treasurer is not a member of Council."

#### **2) ARTICLE 10 – TREASURER**

The exact wording to read as follows:

"He/she shall take charge of all accounts against "THE BURK'S FALLS AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY" and see that the accounts are duly paid when the same have been passed for payment by the Committee. All cheques must be signed by at least any two (2) signatures which can be either the President, Vice-President, or Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer in any combination thereof. It is his or her responsibility to have proper accounts drawn up in a financial institution in Canada, named by the committee and that all monies, with the exception of petty cash, be deposited therein. All accounts exceeding twenty dollars (\$20.00) must be paid by cheque."

"The Treasurer has the authority of the committee to have access to any Accounts, Vouchers, Petty Cash and stock on hand or any records pertaining to the finances of the society at any time."

"He or she shall advise the committee of the monthly finances on the operation of the Society."



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"He or she shall also submit a detailed written financial statement for the fiscal year ended the last day of February. This statement to show revenues, expenditures and current bank balance, and shall be presented at the following meeting in March."

**Moved by Peter Hall, Seconded by Krista Trulsen. Carried**

Charlene Watt will hold the Officer positions of Secretary and Deputy Treasurer for 2023/2024.

**New Business:**

Members thanked Kirk Du Guid for donating two books he authored.

Kristoffer Trulsen-Hunt offered to demonstrate his metal detector to Members on the Watt Farm House property. Members were interested in the offer. Diane and Kristoffer will determine a date and time and bring back the topic at a future meeting.

**Adjournment:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023 at Fell Homes. There being no further business, **Jenny Hall moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.**

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Recorded by  
Charlene Watt, Secretary &  
Deputy Treasurer

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Approved by  
Diane Brandt, President