



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
Phone: 705-571-3308
Email: info@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
REGULAR MEETING
Burk's Falls & District Historical Society
Armour Township Council Chambers, Burk's Falls
Monday, July 20, 2026**

Members Present: Diane Brandt – President
Barry Burton – Vice President
Jarv Osborne – Vice President/Deputy Treasurer
Charlene Watt – Deputy Treasurer/Secretary
Nancy Kyte
Peter Hall
Mike Quinton
Nieves Guijarro
Lynn McGregor
Leo Petipas

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 of minutes and adoption of the June 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes as circulated:
Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Nieves Guijarro. Carried

Treasurer's Report:

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

The balance of the main bank account as of June 1, 2026, was \$7,249.22. During the reporting period, total expenses amounted to \$2,276.89, including telephone and internet services, schoolhouse cleaning, insurance, Trillium Tax services, and hardware store purchases. Total revenue for the month was \$2,712.23, consisting of donations, Dundurn Press proceeds, and reimbursement from Ryerson Township for summer student costs.



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The current bank account balance is \$13,417.41. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Leo Petipas, Seconded by Mike Quinton. Carried**

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:

Diane Brandt provided an update on the operation of the Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse for the summer season. Diane attended a Ryerson Township Council meeting to request funding for a summer student to staff the schoolhouse on weekends. Council approved the request and also agreed to cover the associated OMERS contributions. Jordan Wilson was hired for the position and will work Fridays and Saturdays from July 10 to August 29. Council also assessed several trees on the property and determined they will be removed to help prevent potential damage to the site. Concerns regarding the cleanliness of the municipally owned outhouse were raised with the Township of Ryerson. The matter has since been addressed, and the Township's groundskeeper has cleaned the facility.

Watt Farm House Update:

Nancy Kyte provided an update on behalf of the summer student, Lily Kyte. Members were advised that the Heritage Centre is open for the season and is offering free children's programs to the community. The recent Dinosaur Dig Day attracted more than 50 participants. On July 25, a Christmas in July cookie decorating event will be offered. The summer student continues to actively promote Heritage Centre events through social media and local community event platforms. In addition, a weekly social media feature highlighting news from the Almaguin News as it appeared 30 years ago has been well received by the public. Psychic Days are scheduled for August 8 and August 19 at a cost of \$20 per person. The Historical Society is now able to accept e-transfers, allowing participants to pay in advance. The Society's website will also be updated to include a Donate button, providing the public with the option to make donations online via e-transfer. Mike Quinton reported that he has been working with Lily on a project to document and map past and present businesses located along the main streets of Burk's Falls.

Membership Committee:

Peter Hall advised members that there are 12 paid individual memberships and 3 family memberships for the year to date. Mike Quinton paid for a family membership during the meeting.



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Facilities and Function Committee:

Barry Burton advised Members that he and Diane Brandt met with the Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Armour to discuss the installation of a furnace in the red building. Members reviewed the subsequent email correspondence from the CAO. It was noted that Council is supportive of assisting the Historical Society; however, the Society is encouraged to develop a three- to five-year strategic plan, including a succession plan to strengthen membership and ensure long-term sustainability. Members discussed holding a strategic planning session in September or October to begin developing the plan. The CAO indicated that funding of approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 may be available to assist with the strategic planning process and the preparation of a written plan. Upon completion of the planning session, a new committee will be established to implement the strategic priorities and move the initiative forward.

Fundraising Committee:

Nancy Kyte provided an update on the status of submissions for the cookbook fundraiser. Members were encouraged to reach out to family, friends, and the community to help generate additional interest and increase recipe submissions. Lily Kyte offered to continue serving as the lead for the cookbook fundraiser following the conclusion of her summer student employment. Members expressed their support for her continued involvement and thanked Lily for her ongoing commitment to the initiative.

General Business:

Repairing and Sharing of Artifacts:

Leo Petipas inquired about repairing a damaged seed spreader located at the schoolhouse. Members agreed that repairs would be permitted, provided they can be completed without compromising the integrity or historical value of the artifact. Leo also requested permission to display the seed spreader at the Fall Fair in his capacity as a member of the Agricultural Society. Members agreed to permit the temporary use of the artifact for display purposes, subject to it being signed out and approved by Diane Brandt.

Fall Fair:

Diane Brandt advised Members that the Historical Society will host an information booth at the Fall Fair in September. The booth will be located in the Vendors' Market to increase the Society's visibility, engage with the public, and promote its programs and membership.



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New Business: None

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 17, 2026 at the Armour Township Council Chambers. There being no further business, Jarv Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Deputy-Treasurer/Secretary

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President