



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
Phone: 705-571-3308
Email: info@burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com
www.burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com
Like us on Facebook

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
Fell Homes, Burk's Falls
Monday, July 21, 2025**

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

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 Brandt welcomed Members to the meeting. Regrets were received from Mike Quinton and Peter Hall. Members extended warm birthday wishes to Barry Burton in celebration of his 71st birthday, which was marked with cake shared among attendees.

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Acceptance of minutes and adoption of the June 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes as circulated:
Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Jarv Osborne. Carried

Acceptance of minutes and adoption of the July 4, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes as circulated:
Moved by Jenny Hall, Seconded by Nieves Guijarro. Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's / Financial Report was presented by Jenny Hall. Main bank account balance was \$10,976.12 on June 1, 2025. Expenses totalled \$112.96 for expected fixed monthly business expenses (eg telephone/internet), and \$50.87 for rodent repellent. With no revenue for this period, the end of month balance was \$10,863.16. Highlights month of July to date include.



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
Phone: 705-571-3308
Email: info@burksfallsdistrichistoricalsociety.com
www.burksfallsdistrichistoricalsociety.com
Like us on Facebook

Heritage Centres
Watt Century Farm House
827 Chetwynd Road
Armour Township

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse
112 Midlothian Road
Ryerson Township

Heritage Day revenue from donations at gate and popcorn stand, plus dunk tank, sale of T-shirts and a mug all totalled \$992.15; received \$800.00 cheque from the Royal Canadian Legion; received \$5,000.00 cheque from the Village of Burk's Falls. Expenses include a contribution of \$100.00 for refreshments at the King Charles III Coronation Event honouring Lorne Main and Betty Caldwell to be held on July 30, 2025. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Kirk Du Guid, Seconded by Nancy Kyte. Carried**

Committee Reports:

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:

Diane Brandt informed the Members that the facility has received approximately 20 visitors this season. Each time the centre has been opened, it has attracted attendees. During her visits, Diane has also been actively monitoring the condition of the building and overseeing operations at the Heritage Centre.

Watt Farm House Update:

Diane Brandt informed Members that the Heritage Centre received 30 visitors during the month of July. She also reported that the torrential rain on July 17 severely damaged the two 10x10 canopy tents that had been set up in preparation for the 28 children from the Katrine Community Centre's day camp program. As a result, all canopy tents have been destroyed over the course of the month.

The two part-time employees, Clara and Jordan, have been actively engaged in researching and inventorying artifacts.

Nancy Kyte presented a fabric swatch sample for the new blinds at the farmhouse. Members expressed support for both the material and the print design, noting its appropriateness for the era. Nancy, along with her mother, Faye Evenden, generously offered to sew the window coverings and will be donating their time. Members expressed their appreciation for this contribution.

Diane Brandt also provided a status update on the red building construction. Roser Renovations and the replacement plumber are scheduled to be on-site next week.

Facilities and Function Committee:

Diane Brandt informed Members that she has been in contact with Anthony D'Agata, a member of the Amish community. Mr. D'Agata plans to return to the area soon and will consult with members of his community to determine their interest in disassembling the barn at the farmhouse. Diane will report back to Members once she receives a response.



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
Phone: 705-571-3308
Email: info@burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com
www.burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com
Like us on Facebook

Heritage Centres
Watt Century Farm House
827 Chetwynd Road
Armour Township

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse
112 Midlothian Road
Ryerson Township

Membership Committee:

In Peter Hall's absence, Diane Brandt submitted a 2025 membership renewal from Linda and Dan Maurer to the Treasurer.

Correspondence:

Jones DesLaurier Insurance Management has invoiced for insurance and professional liability insurance and the fee is to be paid in July.

General Business:

Heritage Festival:

Members held a discussion regarding the 2025 Heritage Festival. Despite the extreme heat and a tornado warning, the event was widely regarded as a success, demonstrating strong community participation and underscoring the resilience and dedication of both organizers and attendees.

However, attendance and donations were notably lower this year, including a decline in vendor presence and car show participation. Congratulations were extended to the Magnetawan Fire Station for their consecutive win in the firefighter challenge.

From June 19 to July 16, 2025, the event's Facebook page recorded over 54,000 views, reflecting significant online engagement.

It was noted that the event tent sustained damage during teardown. Members who were able to volunteer their time on the day of the event were sincerely thanked for their commitment and efforts. Appreciation was also expressed to the Township of Armour and the Agricultural Society for their ongoing support of the festival.

Recommendations for the 2026 Heritage Festival included:

- Staggering volunteer hours to minimize prolonged exposure to heat;
- Removing the dunk tank from the event program;
- Renting two 10x10 tents, as the current structures are difficult for Members to set up and dismantle.



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
Phone: 705-571-3308
Email: info@burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com
www.burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com
Like us on Facebook

Heritage Centres
Watt Century Farm House
827 Chetwynd Road
Armour Township

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse
112 Midlothian Road
Ryerson Township

Charitable Status Tax Filing:

Jenny Hall advised Members that the 2024/2025 tax return as a registered charity has been completed and will be filed this week.

New Business:

Kirk DuGuid informed Members that he will be relocating at the end of August 2025 and, as a result, will no longer serve as the point of contact for facility access. Effective September 2025, Judy Armstrong will assume responsibility for opening the room for meetings.

Members took a moment to reflect on Kirk's involvement, recalling how he became a Member and recognizing his dedication to volunteering at the schoolhouse and during events. Sincere appreciation and best wishes were extended to Kirk in recognition of his contributions and service.

Other Business:

Diane Brandt provided an update on the hiring of two part-time employees, who began their roles on July 2, 2025. While their positions are currently planned for the summer season, an extension may be considered depending on the duration of the operating season. Members formally welcomed Jordan Wilson and Clara Nykor to the team.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 18, 2025 at Fell Homes. There being no further business, **Jarv Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.**

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Deputy-Treasurer/Secretary

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President