



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  
REGULAR MEETING  
Burk's Falls & District Historical Society  
Fell Homes, Burk's Falls  
Monday, June 16, 2025**

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

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.

**Delegation:** None

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

Acceptance of minutes and adoption of the May 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes as circulated:  
**Moved by Kirk Du Guid, Seconded by Krista Trulsen. Carried**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer's / Financial Report was presented by Jenny Hall. The main bank account balance was \$10,976.12 on May 29, 2025. Regular expenses for monthly business were noted and one deposit of \$20 for a membership was reported. Two cheques are to be issued for rodent repellent and the GES Engineering invoice totaling \$3,139.18. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Barry Burton. Carried**



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## **Committee Reports:**

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

Diane Brandt reported that the schoolhouse has been cleaned for the opening of the season. Earlier today, Diane and Jarv opened the schoolhouse to host students from Land of Lakes Public School. The Magnetawan River Nature Hub also had the students out at their property as well.

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

Nancy Kyte provided an update to Members regarding fabric options that suit early 1900s era of the farmhouse's windows. Swatches will be brought to the next meeting.

Diane provided details on window tinting options that are available at Home Depot and advised that there is an alternative method called ceramic window tinting. Ceramic window tint is the pinnacle of window protection. It's engineered for superior clarity, blocking 99.9 percent of UVA and UVB. Diane will investigate this option and report back with a quote to purchase the tint on the living room and dining room windows, including installation.

### **Facilities and Function Committee:**

Members reviewed an engineering report by Granite Engineering Services with respect to the condition of the out buildings on the Watt Farm House property. Repairs were noted for both the drive shed and the barn. It was concluded that the costs to repair both structures would be cost prohibitive and recommended that the buildings be demolished. The report will be forwarded to the Township of Armour for a decision.

## **Motion: Acceptance of Engineering Report – Watt Farm House Historical Site – (827 Chetwynd Rd, Burk's Falls – Drive Shed and Barn)**

WHEREAS the Township of Armour is the registered owner of the Watt Farm House Historical Site property located at 827 Chetwynd Road in Burk's Falls; and

WHEREAS the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society, in support of the preservation and responsible stewardship of local heritage, has received and reviewed an engineering report dated June 13, 2025, prepared by Granite Engineering Services (GES), evaluating the structural condition of the Drive Shed and Barn on the said property; and

WHEREAS the report identifies severe structural deterioration in both buildings, outlines extensive and costly repairs, and concludes that restoration of the buildings would be cost-prohibitive without substantial material donations and volunteer labour; and



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WHEREAS the report recommends demolition of both structures due to economic and safety considerations, while also noting the potential historical and material value of salvageable elements, and recommends cataloging and preserving such elements for possible future interpretation or reconstruction; and

WHEREAS the report further recommends the installation of fencing and surveillance along the roadside of the property to protect the site from vandalism or theft;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society hereby accepts the findings and recommendations of the June 13, 2025, engineering report prepared by GES;

AND THAT the Society supports the recommendation to engage qualified individuals to document and assess salvageable historical materials prior to any demolition activity, with a view to preserving the heritage value of the site;

AND THAT the Society recommends that the Township of Armour, as the property owner, explore options for site security improvements—including the installation of fencing and surveillance measures—as outlined in the report, and offers its support in any heritage-related aspects of this work;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution, along with the engineering report, be forwarded to the Council of the Township of Armour for their information, consideration, and action.

**Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Peter Hall. Carried**

*Red Building Update:*

A verbal update was given on the status of the Red Building. Granite Engineering assessed heating and public accessibility. The CAO from the Township of Armour has been conversing with the engineer. The Township has also contacted Tebby Plumbing to inquire about completing the plumbing in the Red Building. Members asked if the CAO could provide a written report for the next meeting that provides details on the status of the build.

*Membership Committee:*

Peter Hall advised members that there are 27 paid memberships for the year to date. Peter will attempt to increase memberships over the summer.



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### **Correspondence:**

Diane informed Members that she has been in conversation with the insurance provider regarding the policy renewal.

Diane has been in contact with Tara at the Library on the "What the Heck is This?" collaboration project. Nieves advised that the engagement project has been popular. Armour Township provided the library with a case of Armour History Books to hand out for the monthly prizes.

Diane advised Members that she has been contacted by the Township of Ryerson and Township of Armour requesting newsletter submissions.

### **General Business:**

#### **Heritage Co-ordinator Summer Student:**

Diane advised that one application was received for the summer student position. The student was interviewed but declined the job offer. Members agreed to advertise the open position until it is filled and to not limit the job posting to a summer student. The employment opportunity would be for a part-time and pay \$18.00 per hour.

#### **Summer Volunteer Sign Up:**

A volunteer schedule was circulated to Members, inviting them to sign up for specific dates and times throughout the summer at the Schoolhouse. The schedule will be distributed to Members following the meeting for finalization before the dates and times are posted to the website. Diane would like the heritage centre to be open from Thursday to Monday throughout the summer with the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. but we will accommodate shorter time slots as well.

#### **Ryerson Township's Community Yard Sale:**

Members reviewed the event flyer from the Township of Ryerson advising of the annual Ryerson Community Yard Sale on June 21, 2025. The schoolhouse will be opened for the event by Diane Brandt from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

#### **Heritage Festival 2025:**

Members reviewed the Staff Report from the Township of Armour's Recreation Co-ordinator. Nancy Kyte was asked to open the washrooms at the baseball diamonds for Heritage Festival. Nieves will pick up the popcorn maker before Heritage Festival from the Armour Office. Charlene will ensure that there is an extension cord in the box. Charlene advised Members that prize donations for the Car Show has not been as successful and advised that a prize for



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the Heritage Festival's Car Show Award is needed. Motion to Authorize the Secretary to Purchase Prize for Heritage Festival Car Show Winner:

WHEREAS, the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society is hosting the annual Heritage Festival, which includes a Car Show as one of its featured events;

AND WHEREAS, it is deemed appropriate to accompany the Car Show trophy with an additional prize for the winner, in recognition of their participation and achievement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Secretary of the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society is hereby authorized to purchase a prize to accompany the Car Show Trophy awarded during the Heritage Festival;

AND FURTHER THAT, the total cost of the prize shall not exceed \$100.00 plus applicable HST;

AND THAT, the purchase shall be made in a timely manner to ensure the prize is available for presentation at the event.

**Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Jenny Hall. Carried**

Cell Phone Replacement:

Diane Brandt advised that the cell phone for the Historical Society (Phone # 705-571-3308) will not turn on and needs to be replaced. The 3G network will be obsolete in the coming months. Diane provided options. Members directed Diane to select a new cell phone and plan that meets her needs.

**New Business:**

King Charles 111 Coronation Medals:

Members were advised by Krista Trulsen that founding Members Betty Caldwell and Lorne Main have been selected to receive the King Charles 111 Coronation Medals. A ceremony has been tentatively scheduled to present the awards to the recipients on July 25, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Stan Darling Park in the Village of Burk's Falls. Members discussed the location and requested that it be changed to be the Legion for accessibility, seating and to allow for refreshments after the ceremony. Krista Trulsen will contact MPP Graydon Smith's officer to change the date and location. Krista will update Members after she finalizes the planning. Members thanked Krista for completing the nominations and organizing the service.

**Motion to set a budget of up to \$500 + HST for hosting the Award Ceremony to recognize founding members Betty Caldwell and Lorne Main to secure the Legion rental, snacks, refreshments and flowers. Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Barry Burton. Carried**





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#### Commanda Museum's Summerfest:

Members reviewed an invitation to participate at the Commanda Museum's Summerfest on July 26, 2025 at the Commanda Community Centre. The event will be held from noon to 8:00 p.m. with a full line-up of local music acts, food, games, drinks and silent auction. Members expressed gratitude for the invite and Diane Brandt advised that she will reach out to the Commanda Museum.

#### T-Shirts:

Members discussed purchasing t-shirts with the Historical Society's logo. Diane Brandt will order t-shirts featuring the Historical Society's logo in a variety of sizes for both our Members and for sale. These shirts will be a great way to show support for the Society while helping us raise funds for upcoming projects, such as a membership promo and events.

#### Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 21, 2025 at Fell Homes. There being no further business, **Nieves Guijarro moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.**

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Recorded by  
Charlene Watt, Deputy-Treasurer/Secretary

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Approved by  
Diane Brandt, President