



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0
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Watt Century Farm House
827 Chetwynd Road
Armour Township

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse
112 Midlothian Road
Ryerson Township

MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REGULAR MEETING
Burk's Falls & District Historical Society
Township of Armour Council Chambers, Burk's Falls
Monday, March 23, 2026

Members Present: Diane Brandt – President
Jarv Osborne – Vice President
Jenny Hall - Treasurer
Charlene Watt – Secretary / Deputy Treasurer
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 welcomed Members. Regrets from Barry Burton, Peter Hall and Nieves Guijarro.

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

A quorum was confirmed with Members present.
Acceptance of minutes and adoption of the February 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes as circulated:
Moved by Nancy Kyte, Seconded by Jenny Hall. Carried

Nomination and Election of Officers:

Five Directors were elected at the meeting: Diane Brandt (6 votes), Jenny Hall (5 votes), Jarv Osborne (6 votes), Barry Burton (5 votes) and Peter Hall (6 votes).
Nieves Guijarro received 2 votes but was not elected.

Appointments of the 2026/2027 Officers were made by the Directors.

Diane Brandt was appointed as President by Jarv Osborne and seconded by Jenny Hall.
Diane Brandt accepted the nomination.



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Barry Burton was appointed as Vice-President by Diane Brandt and seconded by Jarv Osborne. The nomination will be brought forward to the April meeting for acceptance. The position is currently pending.

Jarv Osborne was nominated as Treasurer by Jenny Hall and seconded by Diane Brandt. Jarv Osborne did not accept the nomination.

Jenny Hall was appointed as Treasurer by Jarv Osborne and seconded by Diane Brandt. Jenny Hall accepted the nomination.

Charlene Watt was appointed as Deputy Treasurer/Secretary by Diane Brandt and seconded by Jarv Osborne. Charlene Watt accepted the nomination.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's / Financial Report was presented by Jenny Hall. The Treasurer reported that the opening bank balance as of February 1, 2026 was \$8,227.17. Total expenses for the month were \$220.22, consisting of regular operating costs including telephone/internet services, a laptop battery, and office supplies. The closing balance as of February 28, 2026 was \$8,006.95.

It was further noted that all financial records for the period March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026 have been submitted for audit by Jarv Osborne and Krista Trulsen. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and to pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Nancy Kyte. Carried**

Committee Reports:

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:

The heritage centre has been closed for the season.

Watt Farm House Update:

Diane Brandt advised Members that she checks in on the farm house on a regular basis.

Membership Renewals:

Diane Brandt provided a verbal update on the status of memberships on behalf of Peter Hall. There are 15 paid memberships for 2026. Honourary memberships include Bruce Campbell, Brad Crozier, Betty Caldwell and Lorne Main.



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Heritage Festival Committee:

Nancy Kyte updated Members on the March 9, 2026 Heritage Festival Committee meeting with the Township of Armour's Recreation Co-ordinator. A media statement is to be released to the public by the Township stating *"The Recreation Department and Heritage Festival Planning Committee wish to advise the community of important changes to the direction and format of the Heritage Festival moving forward. After thoughtful consideration and careful review of the festival's long-term vision, it has been decided that the event will not operate as a large-scale fairground-based festival at this time. The Department and Committee are currently working to evaluate various event options that celebrate the area's vibrant artistic, cultural and heritage features. The Township of Armour wishes to extend sincere thanks to all of our valued event partners, contributors, and attendees for making the event possible. Over the coming weeks, the committee will be consulting with various festival partners to explore opportunities that bring new experiences to our community. We recognize that this may come as a shock to many who have come to look forward to including Heritage Festival in their summer plans. We encourage you all to stay tuned to the Armour Township Facebook Page to remain up-to-date on event details and information."*

A date for the Heritage Festival has not yet been determined, as a proposed August date conflicts with the Sundridge Sunflower Festival. Potential attractions were discussed but not finalized; suggestions included rope making, butter churning, a BBQ fundraiser, and a corn boil. It was also proposed that an evening event be considered, such as a 1950s/1960s-themed dance at the Katrine Community Centre, with additional activities hosted in the adjacent ball diamond area. Concerns were raised regarding limited parking capacity at the heritage centres, which may impact the feasibility of hosting a large-scale event. Nancy advised that, according to the Township's Recreation Coordinator, an approximate budget of \$4,500 has been allocated. The Heritage Festival Committee expects to have further details following an upcoming meeting with the Recreation Coordinator. Members thanked Nancy for her update.

Correspondence:

Chamber of Commerce Publication: Diane Brandt advised that the format for the annual publication has changed. Diane has emailed the Chamber of Commerce for details on the insert to the guide and is awaiting a response.

Young Canada Works Funding: Diane Brandt informed Members that she will follow up with the Township of Armour's CAO regarding the status of the application.

Township of Ryerson Newsletter: Diane Brandt informed Members that she provided a submission for the municipal newsletter on behalf of the Historical Society.



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General Business:

Recognition Gift for Fell Homes

A follow-up discussion was held regarding last month's meeting item concerning a recognition gift for Fell Homes in appreciation for allowing the Historical Society to use the facility's common room for past meetings. Jarv Osborne and Diane Brandt presented a gift suggestion for consideration. Following discussion, members agreed that the purchase of a utility service cart would be a practical and appropriate gift for the seniors' residence. The purchase of a plaque for the cart was also discussed and was considered a minor expense that did not require formal resolution. The Executive was authorized to proceed.

Resolution of Appreciation and Approval of Purchase

WHEREAS the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society has been privileged to hold its monthly meetings in the common room at Fell Homes; and

WHEREAS the Society greatly appreciates the generosity and cooperation extended by the management and residents of Fell Homes in permitting the use of this facility over the years; and

WHEREAS the Society will no longer be using the Fell Homes common room for its meetings and wishes to formally acknowledge its gratitude for the hospitality received;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society approves the purchase of a utility service cart in the amount of \$139.99 + HST to be presented to Fell Homes as a token of appreciation for the use of their common room for the Society's monthly meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive of the Society is authorized to arrange for the purchase and presentation of the utility service cart on behalf of the membership, together with a message of thanks recognizing the support and goodwill shown to the Society. Moved by Jenny Hall, Seconded by Nancy Kyte. Carried

New Business:

Members reviewed a resolution from the Township of McNab/Braeside petitioning the Province of Ontario and the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming to review and modernize the Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG), including restoring its purchasing power through adjustment for inflation. Members adopted a resolution in support.

Resolution: Support for Modernizing the Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG)

WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and



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WHEREAS The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and
WHEREAS The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and
WHEREAS Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and
WHEREAS Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Burk's Falls and District Historical Society formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support. Moved by Jenny Hall, Seconded by Krista Trulsen. Carried

Audit of Financial Statements:

Jarv Osborne reported that the audit of the 2025-2026 Financial Statements is in process and a report will be brought forward to the April meeting.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, 2026 at the Township of Armour Council Chambers, 56 Ontario Street, Burk's Falls. There being no further business, Jarv Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Deputy-Treasurer/Secretary

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President