



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

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, May 18, 2026**

Members Present: Diane Brandt – President
Barry Burton – Vice President
Charlene Watt – Deputy Treasurer/Secretary
Nancy Kyte
Peter Hall
Krista Trulsen
Nieves Guijarro
Lynn McGregor
Leo Petipas (New Member)

The Members present constituted a quorum.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.
Diane Brandt in the Chair.

Welcome:

Diane welcomed Members. Members welcomed Leo Petipas and his family as new Members.
Regrets from Jenny Hall.

Delegation:

There were no delegations.

Election of Director and Nomination of Vice-President:

As noted in the March 23, 2026 minutes, Barry Burton was elected as a Director and nominated for the position of Vice-President by Diane Brandt, seconded by Jarv Osborne. As Mr. Burton was not in attendance at that time and unable to attend the April 20, 2026 meeting, consideration of the nomination was deferred to the May 2026 meeting. Barry Burton accepted the nomination.



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Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Acceptance of minutes and adoption of the April 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes as circulated:
Moved by Nancy Kyte Seconded by Peter Hall. Carried

Treasurer's Report:

There was no Treasurer's Report.

Correspondence:

Charlene Watt advised Members that an obituary notice was received for Bruce Campbell. Mr. Campbell was an active Historical Society Member until 2021 and an advocate for preserving local history. A Celebration of Bruce's Life will be held June 6, 2026, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 405, 9 Mary Street. Dress code is Toronto Maple Leafs apparel or blue and white clothing. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Hospice Huntsville or Sick Kids (The Hospital for Sick Children). **Motion to donate \$100 to Hospice Huntsville in memory of Bruce Campbell: Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Leo Petipas. Carried**

Diane Brandt advised Members that she had received a request from Ingrid Gorman of South River offering a donation consisting of a Tabor organ and a settee. Photographs of the items were circulated for review. Diane advised that the donations will be accepted on behalf of the Historical Society. Due to limited space currently available at the farmhouse, the Gorman family has agreed to retain the furniture until suitable accommodations can be arranged.

Committee Reports:

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:

Members were advised that the Township of Ryerson will not be hosting the annual Ryerson Community Yard Sale in June. Additionally, the Heritage Centre has been spring cleaned and is prepared to open for the season. It is planned to open the facility in early July and to be open on weekends. A volunteer sign-up calendar will be presented at next month's meeting to coordinate assistance with operating hours throughout the summer season.

Watt Farm House Update:

Members were advised that the Heritage Centre is prepared to open for the season.

Membership Committee:

Peter Hall advised members that there are 12 paid individual memberships and 2 family membership for the year to date. The honorary membership for Bruce Campbell will be removed from the count. There has been no change since last month.



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Facilities and Function Committee:

Members were advised by Diane Brandt and Barry Burton that Armour Township has approved the 2026 budget, which includes provisions for heating the red building. Representatives of the F&F Committee subsequently met onsite with the CAO and the Chief Building Official to review and assess the proposed heating system and determine whether it will adequately meet the facility's operational requirements. Barry Burton will follow up with the Chief Building Official regarding the requirement for a secondary review. In addition, revisions to the accessible washroom design are required to incorporate a change table in accordance with accessibility requirements.

Hiring Committee:

Members were advised that Diane Brandt and Dave Gray, CAO for the Township of Armour will review the submissions and report next month on the selected Heritage Co-ordinator Summer Student hire. Jenny Hall is unable to commit to the Hiring Committee at this time.

General Business:

Members reviewed the public notice from the Township of Armour stating that Heritage Festival 2026 has been cancelled. It was agreed with the Historical Society that after careful consideration, we would not be proceeding with the Heritage Festival for the current year. The Township and Historical Society recognized the importance of the event within the community and acknowledged the support we had received over the years. It was further noted that the Township and Historical Society was exploring alternative community events and programming that would be more sustainable and cost-effective while still bringing residents together. Additional information will be shared as plans are developed. Peter Hall and Nancy Kyte advised that they will continue to follow up with the Township of Armour's Recreation Department to work on planning next year's event.

New Business:

Fundraising Ideas:

Fundraising was recognized as essential to supporting the Historical Society's programs, events, preservation efforts, and ongoing community initiatives.

One suggestion was proposing a community-driven fundraising initiative centered on the creation of a heritage cookbook. More than a traditional recipe collection, the project would preserve and celebrate the culinary traditions, family stories, and everyday history of Burk's Falls, Ryerson Township, and Armour Township. Community members would be invited to contribute family recipes, personal memories, and historical photographs, helping create a living archive of local heritage that reflects rural traditions. The cookbook would also include educational historical inserts. Proceeds from cookbook sales would support the Historical



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Society's fundraising project for many years and promote preservation efforts while strengthening community connection, encouraging intergenerational participation, and creating a lasting cultural legacy for future generations.

Another suggestion discussed was approaching local businesses to request permission to place donation jars at customer checkout areas in support of Historical Society initiatives. Proposed wording for jar labels included: "Every Donation Helps Protect Our Heritage," "Your Donation Helps Keep History Alive," "Support Heritage Preservation in Our Community," and "Every Dollar Helps Preserve Our Shared Story."

Peter Hall and Nancy Kyte presented a compiled list of potential fundraising initiatives for consideration. The proposed activities include a spaghetti dinner, bingo event, silent auction, themed dances, chili cook-off, bake sale, rubber duck races, production of an annual calendar, establishment of a legacy giving program, and a music concert in collaboration with the Theatre Committee. Additional ideas include maple syrup production activities and various raffle-based fundraising opportunities.

Peter Hall and Nancy Kyte will undertake a further review and evaluation of the proposed fundraising initiatives. They will assess the feasibility, community interest, resource requirements, and expected revenue generation associated with each idea, and will provide recommendations at the next meeting. A report outlining their findings and suggested next steps will be presented for consideration next month.

Mailbag Donation:

Barry Burton presented to Diane Brandt a mailbag from the historic Katrine Post Office from the 1940s. Members expressed gratitude for the donation. Barry will request the donor complete the donation form for our records and return to Diane.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, 2026 at the Armour Township Council Chambers. There being no further business, Barry Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Deputy-Treasurer/Secretary

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President