



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

### Burk's Falls & District Historical Society

### Fell Homes, Burk's Falls

### Monday, November 17, 2025

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

The Members present constituted a quorum.

Guests: Joe Shillolo  
Ben Collings

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 p.m.  
Diane Brandt in the Chair.

#### **Welcome:**

Diane welcomed Members & Guests. Introductions were made.

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

Acceptance and adoption of the October 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes as circulated: **Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Barry Burton. Carried**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Jenny Hall reported that the balance of the main bank account was \$10,568.18 as of October 1, 2025, and \$7,037.50 as of October 31, 2025. Total expenses for October amounted to \$3,640.68, which included regular fixed monthly operating costs, \$108.39 for Halloween treats, \$65.00 for annual memberships to the Ontario Historical Society, and \$3,405.19 in wages for two part-time summer employees. Revenue for the month totalled \$110.00, consisting of a membership renewal and a \$100.00 donation from Barry Burton. **Motion to**



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**accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Nancy Kyte, Seconded by Krista Trulsen. Carried**

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:

The heritage centre has been closed for the season.

#### Watt Farm House Update:

The farmhouse will be open during the off-season by appointment only. The stairlift has not yet been serviced, and Diane will follow up with the CAO at the Township of Armour regarding its maintenance. Curtains have been installed in the front porch, and Nancy Kyte is working on the next set for the laundry room as well as blinds for the garage.

#### Membership Committee:

Peter Hall reported that there are 32 active memberships for 2025. The email addresses of members will be forwarded to Charlene Watt to include in the circulation list.

#### Facilities and Functions Committee:

Diane Brandt reported that the committee met on October 29, 2025, to discuss the new red building. Interior pest control is required, and she will follow up with the CAO at the Township of Armour regarding next steps. Barry Burton advised members that three quotes have been received for the heating system. Prices currently range from \$15,000 - \$20,000 with recommendations to install the system from the ceiling. Once a draft report is prepared, it will be presented to the committee for approval prior to submission to the Township of Armour in support of a grant application. Clarification is still required from the Township's Chief Building Official on whether a heat loss study is necessary, as this may affect the contractors' quotes. Jenny Hall is reviewing flooring options and will present her findings at a future committee meeting.

### **Correspondence:**

Jenny Hall reported that she received two conflicting letters from the CRA regarding the income tax submission and will follow up to clarify the filing status.



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## **General Business:**

### **Simcoe County Museum Day Trip:**

Barry Burton and Diane Brandt provided an update on the tour of the Simcoe County Museum. The written report is attached to the meeting minutes. Members thanked Barry for organizing the day trip, noting that it was inspirational and will support long-term planning for the heritage centres.

### **Music Sheet Donation:**

Guest Joe Shillolo attended the meeting to follow up on last month's discussion regarding his potential donation of historic sheet music. Mr. Shillolo presented artifacts dating from the early 1900s to the 1950s. The music sheet circulated to members was a 1935 slumber song written for the Dionne Quintuplets. Members noted that the collection reflects the era represented by the farmhouse and schoolhouse exhibits. The collection contains approximately 200 music sheets. Mr. Shillolo expressed his desire to donate the items, with the hope that they be displayed seasonally or in alignment with themes throughout the year. Diane Brandt advised that the sheets will be displayed once the heritage centres are fully organized, as artifacts will need to be moved between buildings. She proposed displaying the sheets in shadow boxes to ensure their protection. It was agreed that the music sheets will be professionally appraised and that a charitable donation receipt will be issued to Mr. Shillolo. Arrangements will be made to schedule an appointment with the appraiser, Diane Brandt, and Mr. Shillolo. Members thanked Mr. Shillolo for his generous donation and for his contribution to preserving local history.

## **New Business:**

### **Halloween Report:**

Diane Brandt reported that 320 treat bags were purchased for the event, of which 195 were distributed. Members discussed the remaining 125 treat bags and agreed to donate them to the Santa Claus Parade Committee for Santa to hand out at the Burk's Falls Legion on the night of the parade.

### **Meeting Location:**

It was noted that a venue change may be required in the future. Additional information will be gathered, and the topic will be brought forward for discussion in the new year.

### **December Meeting:**

Members discussed a December meeting and agreed to cancel the monthly meeting as we have in the past. **Motion that the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society approve the cancellation of the December 15, 2025 meeting and Members will return to the regularly**



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**scheduled meeting of January 19, 2026: Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Jenny Hall. Carried**

**Adjournment:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 19, 2026 at Fell Homes. There being no further business, **Jenny Hall moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.**

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Recorded by  
Charlene Watt, Secretary &  
Deputy Treasurer

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Approved by  
Diane Brandt, President

## Simcoe County Museum Visit Report

**Members Present** Diane Brant (President)  
Jenny Hall (Treasurer)  
Peter Hall (Membership Chair)  
Mike Quinton (Director)  
Barry Burton (Director)  
Krista Trulsen (Member)  
Benn Collings (Guest)

The members above attended a tour of the Simcoe County Museum which was hosted by Kelley Swift Jones ( Museum Curator). In the morning the group was given a guided tour through the various displays and exhibitions through out the interior of Museum. Followed up by an exterior view of their \$16.6 million dollar expansion project which is in the construction stage. We were able see the multiple wood post & beams being used for the new facility.

At the end of the interior tour Kelley indicated that she teaches at Georgian College the Course on Museum and Gallery Studies and specifically Museum and Gallery Management. Kelley inquired if her students could use our facilities as a subject for their studies.

We were then treated a lunch over at the Simcoe County Administration Building.

The afternoon was followed up by a guided tour of all the museums exterior exhibits hosted by Forrest Patenaude (Supervisor of Education and Visitor Engagement) and Daryl (Co-ordinator of Transportation Artifacts) The exterior Historic buildings were well displayed with appropriate artifacts.

The transportation buildings held an amazing collection of various mechanical transportation and farm equipment. The Museum also has an area dedicated to construction equipment.

**CONCLUSION** All who attended walked away with many ideas and innovative thoughts on how to display our artifacts for our new red building and see the need to do some long term planning for future builds at the Watts Century Farm. We all extended many thanks to Kelley and her team for a great day and their hospitality.

Barry Burton







