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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, October 19, 2026

Members Present: Diane Brandt – President
Barry Burton – Vice President
Jarv Osborne – Vice President/Deputy Treasurer
Charlene Watt – Deputy Treasurer/Secretary
Nancy Kyte
Nieves Guijarro
Jenny Hall
Peter Hall
Lynn McGregor
Ben Collings
Krista Trulsen (arrived at 7:32 p.m.)

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.

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:
Acceptance and adoption of the September 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes as circulated: **Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Nieves Guijarro. Carried**

Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer's / Financial Report was presented by Jarv Osborne. The bank account balance as of September 1, 2026, was $14,286.87. As of September 30, 2026, the bank account balance was $16,965.62, with an outstanding cheque of $1,080.03 payable to Coles Art Market. Total expenses for October amounted to $370.30, covering fixed monthly business expenses, including telephone and internet services. Donations received during the month totalled $75.00. The current account balance is $15,590.29. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Jenny Hall, Seconded by Nancy Kyte. Carried**

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Committee Reports:

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:
Diane Brandt reported that the Heritage Centre is now closed for the season. She plans to visit the facility to ensure everything is in order during the off-season. She advised that some artifacts were moved to the Farm House for the winter.

Watt Farm House Update:
Diane Brandt will be available to open the Farm House for visitors by appointment throughout the winter months. Diane is investigating the possibility of having the Burk's Falls Art Club paint the interior walls of the red building to enhance the presentation of artifact displays.

Membership Committee:
Peter Hall provided a verbal report to Members, advising that there are currently 35 paid members for 2026, including seven new members.

Facilities and Functions Committee:
Barry Burton advised Members that he had visited the Watt Farm House property with Peter Hall to assess the feasibility of establishing a new parking area and estimate its capacity. Based on his assessment, the area along the property line between the red building and the solar farm could accommodate approximately 30–32 vehicles. Charlene provided input regarding parking challenges experienced during previous Heritage Festival events. She also highlighted the importance of watering the hayfield in advance of summer events to help reduce the risk of fire. Charlene will forward a copy of the property survey and site plan to ensure that any proposed parking arrangements remain within the property boundaries. The strategic plan and updates to the business plan were not discussed.

Fundraising Committee:
Nancy Kyte expressed her appreciation to Barry Burton and Peter Hall for assessing potential future parking options at the Watt Farm House property. She noted that this preliminary work will help support future event planning and provide greater flexibility in accommodating visitors during special events and community activities. It was recommended that fundraising initiatives and event planning be deferred until after the municipal election. This would allow time for any newly appointed municipal representatives to become involved with the Historical Society and contribute to future discussions, priorities, and planning decisions.

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Correspondence:

Diane Brandt summarized an email received from Dave Gray, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Township of Armour, providing details regarding the awarding of the Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the heating system in the red building at the Watt Farm House. Eagle Lake Heating was awarded the contract.

Diane Brandt informed Members that the annual report, financial statements, and membership renewal had been submitted to the Ontario Historical Society.

Diane Brandt also advised Members that the annual donation request form would be submitted to the Village of Burk's Falls before the end of the month.

General Business:

Halloween: Charlene Watt reviewed the event planning details for the upcoming Halloween Party, being held in collaboration with the Burk's Falls Lions Club and the Burk's Falls Legion. A summary of the planning meeting was presented, confirming that the Historical Society will distribute free popcorn during the event, with Nieves operating the popcorn machine. Collins' Independent has generously agreed to donate 150 drinks for the children, and approximately 300 bags of potato and corn chips have been purchased by Diane Brandt. Confirmed volunteers for the evening include Diane, Nieves, Krista, Peter, Jenny, and Charlene, with Nancy and her son, James, also assisting with the morning preparations. Set-up will begin at 10:00 a.m. on October 31. Charlene will bring the popcorn machine and deliver the donated drinks from Collins' Independent, while Jarv will provide the pool for the fishing game. All volunteers are asked to arrive at the arena by 5:00 p.m. The Halloween Party will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Secretary/Deputy Treasurer Transition: Members discussed the transition of the Secretary/Deputy Treasurer position. In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment to this position is the responsibility of the Directors. The Directors for 2026/2027 are Diane Brandt, Jarv Osborne, Jenny Hall, Peter Hall, and Barry Burton. During the discussion, Members considered the possibility of dividing the responsibilities of the position among multiple Members through a shared role arrangement. The matter was deferred to the next meeting to allow time to determine whether any Members are interested in being appointed to the Secretary/Deputy Treasurer position.

Township of Ryerson Representative: Members discussed the upcoming municipal election and acknowledged Mayor George Sterling's service as the Township of Ryerson's appointed representative to the Historical Society since January 2023. Members noted that Mayor Sterling has been unable to attend meetings since May 2025 and expressed their appreciation

for his support and contributions during his tenure as municipal representative. In recognition of his service, Members agreed to bring a thank-you card to the next meeting for all Members to sign before forwarding it to Mayor Sterling as a gesture of appreciation for his support of the Historical Society.

Tombstone at the Schoolhouse: Jarv Osborne provided Members with an update regarding an inquiry raised at the previous meeting concerning the potential relocation of the tombstone to the Burk's Falls Cemetery, where it could be placed alongside the grave of his son, David Burk. Jarv has consulted with the Village of Burk's Falls and is continuing discussions with municipal staff to explore the feasibility of this proposal. He will provide a further update once additional information becomes available. Should relocation to the Burk's Falls Cemetery not be possible, Members suggested exploring the possibility of placing the tombstone in Stan Darling Park. Jarv also advised that Shawn Murphy had cleaned the grave marker, and Members agreed that a thank-you card should be sent in recognition of his efforts. A card will be brought to the next meeting for Members to sign.

Georgian College / Museum & Archive Studies Visit: Barry Burton provided Members with an update on the recent visit from Georgian College Museum and Archives Studies students. The group consisted of 18 guests and was hosted by Diane Brandt and Barry Burton, who provided an opportunity for the students to learn more about the Historical Society's heritage centres, collections, and operations. As part of their studies, the students will prepare reports and submit recommendations to the Historical Society identifying potential improvements and opportunities for enhancing the heritage centres. Members noted that the visit also received media coverage, with The Great North Arrow publishing a newspaper article highlighting the students' visit and their engagement with the Historical Society. The visit was considered a valuable opportunity to support student learning while gaining fresh perspectives and recommendations that may assist with the future development and preservation of the Society's heritage facilities.

New Business:

Poppy Fund:
Members discussed the annual donation to the Burk's Falls Legion's Poppy Fund. **Motion that the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society approve a donation to the Burk's Falls Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund in the amount of $100.00: Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Jenny Hall. Carried**

Jarv Osborne and Diane Brandt confirmed that they will be in attendance for the Remembrance Day Ceremony and will lay the wreath on November 11.

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Santa Claus Parade:

Members discussed the annual Santa Claus Parade and agreed to donate to the community event. Members did not confirm participation in the Parade. **Motion that the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society approve a donation to the Burk's Falls Santa Claus Parade Committee in the amount of $100.00: Moved by Krista Trulsen, Seconded by Barry Burton. Carried**

Wartime Quilt Display:

Diane Brandt presented Members with a description of the proposed display case for the quilt, as outlined by Dan Robertson. Members discussed the proposed design and asked questions, which were addressed during the discussion. Diane will investigate additional design options to ensure the quilt can be appropriately displayed and preserved, and will report back to Members.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2026 at the Armour Township Council Chambers. There being no further business, **Krista Trulsen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m.**

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Secretary &
Deputy Treasurer

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President