



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

Burk's Falls & District Historical Society

Fell Homes, Burk's Falls

Monday, October 20, 2025

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

Welcome:

Diane welcomed Members.

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Acceptance and adoption of the September 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes as circulated: **Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Nieves Guijarro. Carried**

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's / Financial Report was presented by Diane Brandt. Main bank account balance as of September 1, 2025, was \$11,780.97. Total expenses for the month amounted to \$1,522.12, covering fixed monthly business costs (telephone and internet), refreshments and treats for visiting day camp children, farmhouse key and hardware, photo pages and glue, restoration of the Children's Orphanage sign (repair and painting), toner, tax return courier fees, and office/archival supplies. This also included costs for a gift of appreciation and service recognition for Kirk upon his departure. Total revenue for the period was \$309.33, generated through the sale of a Ralph Bice book at the Fall Fair and donations received at the heritage centres. The closing bank balance as of September 30, 2025, was \$10,568.18. Invoices received to date but not processed for payment include an invoice from the Township of Armour for the summer student wages & benefits in the amount of \$3,405.19 and treats for the Halloween party in the amount of \$108.39. Barry Burton submitted a donation to the



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Historical Society in the amount of \$100.00 for the Halloween treats. A receipt will be provided to Barry at a future meeting. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Krista Trulsen, Seconded by Jarv Osborne. Carried**

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.

Watt Farm House Update:

Diane Brandt will be available to open the farmhouse for visitors by appointment throughout the winter months. This weekend, Nancy Kyte and her mother will meet Diane at the facility to hang the curtains.

Representatives from the Amish community visited the property and assessed the condition of the barn. Options and quotes for dismantling the structure will be submitted to Charlene Watt at the Armour Township office.

Membership Committee:

Peter Hall reported that a recent audit of memberships revealed that family memberships had previously been counted as a single individual. After adjusting for this, the actual number of members for 2025 is confirmed to be 31. Additionally, Judy Armstrong, Facility Manager at Fell Homes, submitted a new membership at the beginning of the meeting.

Facilities and Functions Committee:

A written report was reviewed by Members from Diane Brandt. On Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 3:00 p.m., Committee members Barry Burton, Diane Brandt, Jarv Osborne, and Jenny Hall met with Dave Gray, CAO of the Township of Armour, and Mayor Rod Ward at the Watt Century Farm House to discuss the Red Building. Updates included the near completion of the accessible washroom—pending installation of a grab bar, toilet paper holder, paper towel dispenser, and mirror—and the installation of a hot water tank in the Utilities Room. Barry and Diane also met with a Napoleon representative in September regarding heating options for the building, and a quote of \$22,343.83 was received. This quote was shared with Mr. Gray and Mayor Ward, who indicated that grant funding may be available to support the installation. To meet application requirements, Barry Burton will obtain two additional quotes.

Correspondence:

Diane Brandt informed the Members that an email of appreciation was received, thanking the Historical Society for providing information on the McGill family history.



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General Business:

Halloween: Charlene Watt reviewed the event planning details for the upcoming Halloween Party in coordination 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. Approximately 300 bags of potato chips and cheesies were purchased by Diane Brandt for the event. Confirmed volunteers for the evening include Diane, Nieves, Krista, Peter, Jenny, Charlene, Nancy, and her son James. Set-up will begin at 3:30 p.m. on October 31. Nieves will bring the popcorn machine, Jarv will bring the pool for the fishing game, Charlene will deliver the drink donations from Collins' Independent, and Nancy and James will assist after school. All volunteers are asked to arrive at the arena by 5:30 p.m. The event will run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

TRI Council Meeting: Diane Brandt advised Members of the upcoming TRI Council Meeting. An annual donation request of \$5,000 from the three municipalities was submitted. The annual report and newsletter will be shared as well. The donation submission form was sent to the Village of Burk's Falls on October 14, 2025.

OHS Membership: Diane Brandt informed Members that the annual report, financial statements and membership renewal has been sent to the Ontario Historical Society.

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 Nancy Kyte. Carried**

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

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 Barry Burton, Seconded by Krista Trulsen. Carried**



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Library Collaboration:

Diane Brandt presented Nieves Guijarro with a framed display featuring a poppy, along with historical information and details on the variations of the Remembrance Day symbol, to be exhibited at the library.

Walking Tour:

Members discussed the possibility of revitalizing the historical walking tour within the Village of Burk's Falls, which had been implemented several years ago. Nancy Kyte suggested engaging local businesses to display photographs of historic structures in their windows, noting that the attraction could potentially be integrated with the planned steamboat tour in the future. It was also noted that the Library had previously hosted a walking tour; Nieves will gather additional information and report back at a future meeting.

Historic Music Sheets:

Nieves Guijarro informed the Members that she had been made aware of an individual who may be interested in either loaning or donating historic sheet music from the 1800s. She will provide additional details at a future meeting.

Tour of Simcoe County Museum:

Barry Burton proposed to organize a tour of the Simcoe County Museum to explore their programs and guided tours. Barry Burton will coordinate with interested Members to arrange the visit.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 2025 at Fell Homes. There being no further business, **Peter Hall moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.**

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Secretary &
Deputy Treasurer

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President