



P.O. Box 463, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0  
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[www.burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com](http://www.burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com)  
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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, September 15, 2025

Members Present: Diane Brandt – President  
Jarv Osborne – Vice President  
Charlene Watt – Deputy Treasurer/Secretary  
Nancy Kyte  
Nieves Guijarro  
Barry Burton

The Members present constituted a quorum.

#### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.  
Diane Brandt in the Chair.

#### Welcome:

Diane welcomed Members. Regrets from Jenny Hall and Peter Hall.

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

Acceptance and adoption of the August 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes as circulated: **Moved by Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Nancy Kyte. Carried**

#### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's / Financial Report was presented by Jarv Osborne. Main bank account balance was \$11,780.97 on August 31, 2025. Expenses for the month of August totalled \$966.50 and included office services (internet/phone), \$510.61 to Diane Brandt, \$363.33 to Armour Township, \$12.67 to Home Hardware and \$17.79 to Clara Nykor. Revenue for August totalled \$309.33 and included donations and sales. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Barry Burton, Seconded by Nieves Guijarro. Carried**



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## **Committee Reports:**

### **Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse Update:**

Members were updated by Diane Brandt on the last month's activity at the schoolhouse. It was a successful summer season. Labour Day Weekend brought in 11 visitors. Nieves offered to assist Diane to clean up the centre's artifacts for the season and to prepare the interior for winterization.

### **Watt Farm House Update:**

Diane Brandt provided a verbal update to Members regarding the heritage centre. Abell Pest Control has been scheduled to perform an exterior cluster fly treatment at the farmhouse and has completed an inspection of all identified areas of concern. Diane noted that the Farm House will be open to visitors by appointment throughout the winter months.

There is a permanent exhibit on display of the historic fire in Burk's Falls.

Nancy Kyte informed Members that window coverings for the front entrance have been completed. She will coordinate installation once the windows have been cleaned. Members expressed their appreciation to Nancy for creating the blinds for the heritage centre.

Diane also advised that she continues to investigate options and pricing for window tinting.

An invoice from Armour Township for summer staffing is anticipated.

### **Facilities and Functions Committee:**

Barry Burton informed Members that a representative from Napoleon has assessed the red building and will be providing a quote for the installation of a heat pump. It will need to be determined whether the unit will require a separate propane tank. Barry will convene a committee meeting once the necessary information has been received.

There has been no response to date from the Amish community regarding the dismantling of the barn; however, it is understood that they are currently in their harvest season.

### **Membership Committee:**

Nieves Guijarro advised Members that a lot of membership forms were handed out at the Fall Fair. It was suggested that the Society explore the development of a "Friends of the Heritage Centre" initiative, as the term "Membership" may imply a higher level of commitment and could be discouraging potential supporters from joining the Historical Society.



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### **Correspondence:**

Members received a thank you card from Krista Trulsen in appreciation of the Society's donation toward the King Charles III Coronation Medal Ceremony held in honour of Betty Caldwell and Lorne Main.

### **General Business:**

#### **2025 Newsletter:**

Diane Brandt advised that the 2025 Newsletter was created by Clara, one of our summer staff employees, and will be posted to the website.

#### **Halloween:**

The following Members volunteered to assist with the Halloween event: Nancy Kyte and her son James, Nieves Guijarro, Diane Brandt, Jarv Osborne, and Charlene Watt. Nancy advised that additional student volunteers may be available, and the Historical Society will ensure that student volunteer forms are on hand so participants can submit their hours toward school community service requirements. Volunteers are asked to arrive at the arena by 5:30 p.m. on October 31, with the event scheduled to run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Jarv Osborne has offered to assist with setup at 1:00 p.m. and will bring the kiddie pool for the fishing game. Jarv is not available during the event.

Diane Brandt will purchase 300 bags of chips, and Charlene Watt will contact Valu-Mart to inquire about a possible donation of juice boxes.

Barry Burton will make a \$100 donation on behalf of his business, Burton Lighting Network Limited. Members extended their thanks to Barry for his generous contribution.

Charlene Watt and Nieves Guijarro will be meeting with the Lions Club this week and will provide an update at the October meeting regarding any additional support or details.

### **New Business:**

#### **Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce:**

Diane Brandt advised that she received an email from the Almaguin Highland Chamber of Commerce offering to sell the Historical Society the Chamber's member list with over 1,000 contacts. Members were not interested in purchasing the distribution list.



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### **New Business: cont'd.**

#### **Watts Dam:**

Barry Burton proposed that the Historical Society undertake research into the history of Watts Dam. Charlene Watt noted that she had previously received information from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and will forward the material to Barry for his review. Barry will also reach out to the MNRF to inquire about the possibility of granting Society members access to the site.

#### **Adjournment:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 20, 2025 at Fell Homes. There being no further business, **Nancy Kyte moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.**

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Recorded by  
Charlene Watt, Secretary &  
Deputy Treasurer

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Approved by  
Diane Brandt, President