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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, September 21, 2026

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

Guest: Dave Gray, CAO, Township of Armour

The Members present constituted a quorum.

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 6:54 p.m.
Diane Brandt in the Chair.

Welcome:
Diane welcomed Members and the guest. The new Member, Edythe Brickmore was acknowledged.

Approval & Amendments of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:
Acceptance of minutes and adoption of the August 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes as circulated:
Moved by Krista Trulsen, Seconded by Peter Hall. Carried

Delegation:
Dave Gray, CAO for the Township of Armour, provided a status update regarding the heating system for the Red Building. A copy of the Township of Armour's resolution #2026-246 dated August 25, 2026 providing direction to the CAO regarding the Watt Century Farm House

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Heritage Centre was circulated. A Request for Quotation (RFQ) has been issued, with a closing date of September 29, 2026, and is currently advertised on the Township's website. Bidders have also been invited to submit optional quotations for compatible air-conditioning and humidification components. The work is required to be completed by October 30, 2026. The Township of Armour will award the contract to the successful bidder.

The CAO also encouraged the Historical Society to proceed with the development of a strategic plan and offered assistance with the preparation and submission of a funding application to offset a portion of the project costs.

Expenditures related to the Watt Century Farm House since the Township of Armour assumed title to the property were also discussed. The importance of continued fundraising efforts and the organization's ability to operate in a financially self-sustaining manner was emphasized.

The possibility of entering into a lease agreement between the Historical Society and the Township of Armour is being investigated. The agreement would formalize the arrangement regarding the Historical Society's use of the property and establish the respective responsibilities of the parties.

Questions were asked and answered. Members thanked the CAO for his presentation and expressed their appreciation for his assistance and support.

Treasurer's Report:
The Treasurer's/Financial Report was presented by Jarv Osborne.

The balance of the main bank account as of August 1, 2026, was $13,605.31. During the reporting period, total expenditures amounted to $3,995.47, which included the purchase of a tent, office supplies, expenses related to the Coles Art Market, and summer staff wages.

Total revenue for the month was $5,092.28, consisting primarily of donations, including a $5,000 donation received from Ruth MacKay-Bice.

The bank account balance as of August 31, 2026, was $14,286.87, and the current balance is $15,383.68. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the monthly invoices: Moved by Jenny Hall, Seconded by Barry Burton. Carried**

Correspondence: None

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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. Diane will clean up the centre's artifacts for the season and to prepare the interior for winterization after Thanksgiving.

Watt Farm House Update:
Diane Brandt provided Members with a verbal update regarding the Heritage Centre. Abell Pest Control completed an exterior treatment for cluster flies at the farmhouse, treated the interior of the new Red Building, and conducted an inspection of all previously identified areas of concern. Displays have been rearranged to accommodate recently acquired display cases and a settee. The dining room table has also been relocated to the living room. Diane advised that the Farm House will remain available to visitors by appointment throughout the winter months.

Membership Committee:
Peter Hall provided a verbal report to Members and welcomed our new Member, Edyth Brickmore. Contact details for Ben Collings will be added to the circulation listing.

Facilities and Function Committee:
Barry Burton, F&F Committee representative provided an update to Members on his discussions with the CAO from Armour Township. The next steps are to move forward with a strategic plan and to establish another committee for the project. Per the resolution from the August, 2026 meeting, Diane Brandt will work directly with the consultant. It was agreed that the plan include facility improvements, expansion of a parking area and engaging local non-profit organizations to assist where needed, such as the art club for wall painting and partnering with the Agricultural Society, Legion, Library, Lions Club etc. to host community events.

Fundraising Committee:
Nancy Kyte encouraged Members to explore opportunities to partner with local non-profit organizations on fundraising initiatives, with the goals of sharing resources, reducing costs, and minimizing volunteer fatigue. The submission period for the cookbook will remain open. Diane Brandt returned a quilt that had been proposed as a potential raffle fundraiser. Members agreed that the applicable lottery licensing requirements should be investigated before proceeding with any promotion of the raffle.

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General Business:

Donation from Mackay Estate:
Diane Brandt advised Members that a donation of $5,000 was received from the MacKay Estate in Kearney. Diane informed Members that the donation will be used to purchase a display case and plaque to recognize the donation for the war quilt to protect the artifact. **Motion to authorize the President to oversee and proceed with the purchase of an appropriate display case for the war quilt, using funds from the $5,000 donation received from the MacKay Estate: Moved by Jenny Hall, Seconded by Nancy Kyte. Carried**

Heritage Day 2027:
Diane Brandt addressed Members regarding the importance of beginning preparations for Heritage Day 2027 at the Watt Century Farm House. Various ideas and potential themes for the event were discussed. Nancy Kyte and Peter Hall will bring forward previously discussed ideas and suggestions at the October meeting to allow event planning and coordination to commence during the winter months. Parking arrangements at the Watt Century Farm House will also need to be addressed, with recommendations to be discussed prior to being presented to the Township of Armour. It was also suggested that the Historical Society explore the possibility of hosting a "Part 2" of Heritage Day in conjunction with the Fall Fair.

Fall Fair:
Diane Brandt thanked the Members who volunteered at the 2026 Fall Fair and assisted with promoting the Historical Society's programs and membership. Members agreed that the change in location to the vendor area resulted in increased foot traffic and provided a more favourable location than the previous year.

New Business:

2026 Newsletter:
Members reviewed the 2026 newsletter prepared by summer student Lily Kyte. The newsletter provides an informative overview of the Society's activities, projects, and local history initiatives, while highlighting the work undertaken throughout the year. The newsletter includes a summary of the Society's 2026 season events and activities, as well as an update on the ongoing cookbook project. A feature on the history of Ontario Street provides readers with an opportunity to learn more about the community's historical development and the people and places that have contributed to its heritage. The newsletter also highlights the Society's heritage centres and their role in preserving and sharing local history. The "Did You Know?" section presents interesting historical facts and information intended to engage readers and encourage further interest in local heritage. The "Blast from the Past" section features historic

newspaper clippings, providing a glimpse into events, people, and stories from the community's past. The newsletter concludes with information regarding Society membership and encourages community members to become involved in supporting the organization and its ongoing efforts to preserve and promote local history and heritage. Members acknowledged the work completed by Lily Kyte in preparing the newsletter and appreciated its comprehensive coverage of the Society's activities and local historical information.

Tombstone at the Schoolhouse:
Jarv Osborne provided an update to Members on last month's meeting inquiry. He consulted with the Village of Burk's Falls regarding the possibility of relocating the tombstone to the Burk's Falls Cemetery and placing it with his son's, David Burk's grave. He was advised that the father's headstone is not permitted on the site per the cemetery by-law. Jarv is continuing conversations with the municipal staff and will report back once additional information is available.

Development of a Strategic Plan:
Members discussed the strategic plan initiative and reiterated the discussion from the Facilities and Functions Committee update that was discussed earlier.

Halloween Event with the Lions Club:
Charlene Watt provided an update regarding the meeting she attended with the Lions Club on September 16, 2026, concerning this year's Halloween event. The event will be held on a Saturday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with more than 300 children expected to attend. A poster promoting the event was circulated to Members. The Lions Club plans to provide additional decorations, games, and prizes this year, and the Historical Society has committed to assisting with the annual event. The arena will be available at approximately 10:00 a.m. for set-up. The Historical Society will provide its own candy and operate the historic fishing game. Nieves will confirm whether she is available to prepare and distribute popcorn again this year. Charlene Watt contacted Collins' Independent and confirmed a donation of juice boxes and cases of water for the event. Donation request letters have also been submitted to the Township of Ryerson and the Township of Armour.

The following Members volunteered to assist in the evening for the Halloween event: Peter Hall, Jenny Hall, Diane Brandt, Lynn McGregor, Charlene Watt, and Krista Trulsen. Members were asked to be at the arena on Halloween night by 5:00 p.m.

Members volunteering to assist with set-up are Jarv Osborne, who will bring the kiddie pool for the fishing game, Nancy Kyte and her son James, and Charlene Watt. Diane Brandt will purchase 300 bags of chips for the event.

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Barry Burton confirmed that he will once again provide a $100 donation for the 2026 event on behalf of his business, Burton Lighting Network Limited. Members expressed their appreciation to Barry for his generous contribution.

Georgian College Students Visit:
Barry Burton presented information regarding the upcoming visit on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, when students from the Museum & Archive Studies Program at Georgian College, along with the Curator from the Simcoe County Museum, will be visiting the Watts Farm House. Lunch will be provided for approximately 18 people. Barry has contacted the Legion, who has agreed to prepare and deliver the lunch at a cost of $15.00 per person, for a total estimated cost of $270.00. Barry proposed that the Society approve an expenditure of up to a maximum of $350.00 to cover the cost of lunch and any related expenses. **Motion to approve an expenditure of up to $350.00 + HST for the September 23, 2026 visit by the Georgian College Museum & Archive Studies students and the Simcoe County Museum Curator. Moved by: Jarv Osborne, Seconded by Krista Trulsen. Carried**

Municipal Election 2026 – Township of Armour Representative:
Charlene Watt addressed Members and advised that a Township of Armour municipal representative will be appointed to the Historical Society following the upcoming municipal election. This representative will serve as the Township's designated liaison with the Society. Charlene also provided formal notice of her resignation from her positions as Secretary and Deputy Treasurer, effective November 30, 2026. She explained that, due to the demands of her current role as Municipal Clerk for the Township of Armour and her increasing workload, she is no longer able to provide the level of administrative support required by the Historical Society. Charlene expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to have supported the Society and confirmed that, although she will be stepping down from her formal positions, she intends to remain involved as a volunteer. She will continue to assist with the administration of the Society's website and social media account, as these platforms are currently connected to the Township of Armour.

Adjournment:
The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 2026 at the Armour Township Council Chambers. There being no further business, Peter Hall moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Recorded by
Charlene Watt, Deputy-Treasurer/Secretary

Approved by
Diane Brandt, President