

We have a new logo!

Created by committee, the new logo serves to represent our roots: St. Boniface Church on the hill, a standard historical home and agrarian roots represented by the furrowed ground.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF ST BONIFACE
& MARYHILL COMMUNITY

Newsletter

SUMMER 2016

A Successful Meat Fundraiser and Events

The Historical Society on behalf of its partners extends a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the Big Beef Fundraiser. Over 900 pounds of meat were distributed and helped to raise funds for the coming year's activities.

One such activity is the installation of a new flag pole at the Halter House. Join us at 9:30 a.m. on July 1st when our MP for Kitchener-Conestoga, Harold Albrecht will present us with a new Canadian flag and will hoist it for the very first time. The remainder of the day's activities are from 1-4pm, with antique displays, children's activities, antique cars and cemetery tours. Cake, water and lemonade will be available at no charge.

The Keleher Cross Turns 100 Years Old

Many wayside crosses were built across Ontario by the early settlers of the area to indicate landmarks for safe landing and to testify commitment to the Catholic faith. In their earliest forms the crosses were built to found a village or territory and for more functional reasons like marking halfway points for concessions or to mark future church sites. They were also erected by farmers or landowners as a means of divine protection. After World War II many crosses disappeared over time, however in the area surrounding Maryhill, four of these important historic monuments exist in fine form to this day.

The Historical Society recently undertook efforts to locate the land title to the small plots of land where the crosses reside to ensure the Society is able to invest in their continued upkeep. The wayside shrine plots were mostly donated for use by the landowners themselves. In fact, in the case of the Keleher cross, the land was donated in 1916 by Joseph P. Moyer meaning that cross has marked its 100th anniversary. Going forward we hope to erect plaques which identify and tell the story of each of our wayside shrines, one of which are in Woolwich and the other two in Guelph-Eramosa.

If you are interested in doing a tour of the wayside crosses, consider joining us at the Heritage Day on September 25th. The day includes Mass at St. Boniface Church, a tour of the shrines followed by lunch and celebration of Historical Society members celebrating 50th and 60th anniversaries and significant birthdays.

A Brief History of the Hamlet of Ariss

Written by Susie Motz

For anyone unfamiliar with Ariss, it is a little community that can be found on Line 86 – about 5km west of Guelph and 7km north of Maryhill. At the turn of the 20th century, Ariss was merely a few buildings including a blacksmith shop, a hotel and a few houses. At that time Louis Roth, Andrew Huck Sr. and Joseph House lived there but, the hamlet didn't have a name.

In 1903, Joseph House opened a store in a small room of his dwelling that carried staples and goods to supply the needs of his neighbours - flour, sugar, coal oil, vinegar, yeast, and more. A few years later, as the railway made its way from Guelph heading towards Goderich, it was determined that the little nameless hamlet would be an ideal spot for a railway station for what would become the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Much of the work on the railway was done by a crew of Italians who lived in a mobile caboose. The Italians were self-sustained, doing their own cooking, house-keeping, laundry and in the evening they would entertain with accordions and harmonicas. The occupants of the caboose swelled the population of the small hamlet. They bought supplies of food from the neighbours including milk, butter, eggs and live (cntd. page 3)

Community Member Spotlight

Madeline (Schell) Kuipfer's story begins in a farmhouse two miles north of the St. Boniface Church in Maryhill where she was raised by her parents Caroline (Kloepfer) and Leonard. She was born in that house, as were all her siblings: Edwin, Arthur, Eileen and Leo. Her elder sister Marie was adopted. Growing up in Maryhill she found humble beginnings and learned the value of hard work.

Madeline's earliest memories involve "doing what the boys did" and feeling grateful for the liberties of being born and raised on a farm. At six years old she was tasked with feeding the chickens and milking one of her families' 14 cows. She eventually graduated to milking four cows, twice a day before and after school. She also recalls making lunches for her siblings to take to school every day, and making sure everyone was clean, dressed, and ready to go.

In the winter, getting to school was a challenge however their family had two horses, Teddy and Dinah, and the neighbours had a sleigh. Putting those two together, the Schell troop and the Zinger twins would pile on to the sleigh and travel through the snow to school. Madeline also recalls being lucky as anything to have the horses to take them through the snow for some skating on their hand-me-down boys' skates on the Brohman's pond in the middle of the bush. No matter how rough the ice was, the kids were entirely committed to skating to exhaustion.

While her sisters were mostly 'indoorsy types' Madeline really

took to working along side her brothers and father. The labour was fairly intensive, as the family subsisted on a mixed farm of horses, pigs, chickens, ducks, cows, and a small orchard and vegetables in the summer growing season. They didn't have electricity installed until she was 12 or 13 years old, so there was nothing automated about the farming, and every day indoor chores were laborious as well. Regardless, Madeline says she really liked doing all the chores and values her work ethic to this day.

Until she was 16 and had moved to Kitchener, Madeline and her siblings didn't attend parties or big events to her recollection, other than the Maryhill Bazaar that happened every year on the school ground. Before she and her siblings could go, they each worked hard haying to make enough money to spend at the bazaar. On a recent road trip with a friend Helen Moyer, Madeline was vividly reminded of these days after seeing all the hay stooks in the Mennonite fields, and remarked that that was exactly how her family did them too.

Madeline was and is incredibly committed to her faith, and says she even had very early aspirations of becoming a nun. She remembers digging through the rag box at home looking for enough scraps of black and white fabric to assemble a coif and wimple, which when she did enough material there weren't enough safety pins to hold them all down. It was around that time that she recalls her mother 'encouraging' her to see the world and get a real job, which quickly dampened her dreams and eventually became her reality after she graduated grade 10 and started working in Kresge's store in Kitchener. Regardless, church was often a place of



sanctuary for Madeline and helped her cope with difficult relations with her mother.

Madeline reflects that life was hard when she was growing up because “you always had to be working”. She’s not sure others had to work as much as they did, but at the time, she says, that’s just the way it was, and as kids they didn’t know any different. She remembers the gentle kindness of her father, and his willingness to work alongside the kids as they were hoeing turnips or doing hay. She says her brothers were a source of constant fun and entertainment, whether she was being squirted with fresh milk straight from the teat, or hitching a steer to the wagon to see how far he’d make it on his own. She feels she had the best childhood because she grew up on a farm, and the time she spent in church helped her have the positive outlook she has today. She says her biggest learning was that “if you go any place, give of yourself,” a good lesson for anyone, anywhere, I’d say.

Madeline’s life really took a turn for the positive when she met her late husband Eugene at the age of 20. Mennonite in heritage, Eugene and Madeline met at his boarding house during a party and he quickly realized that he was interested in converting to Catholicism like Madeline. “Some day” he said,

“I hope to have a religion to be as proud of as you are.”

But Madeline wasn’t interested in converting anyone, so Eugene took it upon himself to begin the process of converting because he seemed to know that it was an important move if he ever wanted to move beyond simply courting. After completing his weekly instruction, Eugene was baptized on June 24 and for the rest of his life he was “the best Catholic,” never missing a mass save for one when they were camping 20 miles in the bush.

Madeline and Eugene married the following summer on June 23 1952, and had a simple wedding that was just as they wanted. Their honeymoon was a big adventure that took them to Calgary in time for the stampede. Shortly after the wedding, the children began arriving: Bill, Tim, Shirley, Don, Bonnie and Bernadette (Madeline is a proud Grandmother of 18 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren).

After they married Eugene and Madeline moved into Kitchener to an upstairs apartment, and soon after moved to a larger house to accommodate their growing family. Together they lived in that house for over 60 years, and only recently did Madeline move into her own apartment.

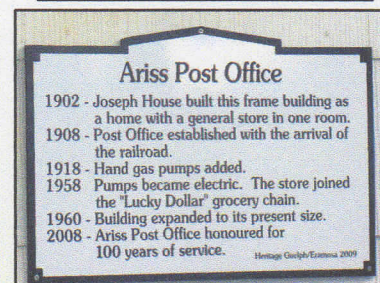
Written by Ashley Honsberger

(Ariss continued) poultry and they purchased items from Mrs. House at her small store. Although the hamlet didn’t have a name, it was often called Weissenburg which is actually a separate hamlet about 2 km further west on Line 86. By 1907, the train was running regularly from Godrich to Guelph. The first train station was built on land belonging to the David Martin family and contained living quarters for a train station agent. Cars of cattle, hogs and thousands of bushels of turnips were loaded annually destined for the United States. Coal and feed grain from grain elevators in Goderich were unloaded at the station. Soon a post office opened in the area – relocated from Weissenburg.

By 1908, the locals decided it was time to give the Hamlet a name of its own. Martindale was a suggestion, to honour the David Martin family, however it was rejected because there was a road named Marden that was in the area and one thought it may be confusing since Marden road didn’t reach to Martindale.

Instead, the name Ariss was chosen to honour the oldest resident in the community – Mrs. Ariss.

She lived with her daughter and son-in-law David Martin. Today the community of Ariss has grown in households and contains a small store that doubles as a post office, a few dozen houses, a golf course and one stop sign!



Father Michael Weiler, C.R.

Michael Weiler was born in New Germany on June 16, 1906, the 10th of 10 children of Jacob Weiler and Catherine Brohman. He was baptized by Fr. Stephen Foerster and his godparents were Michael Weiler and Elizabeth Brohman. Like his uncle Fr. Anton he was to leave his imprint on the local community.

After graduating from Guelph High School, he entered the Resurrectionists on Feb. 14, 1927 and professed his vows Aug. 15, 1928. He studied philosophy at St. Louis University, Missouri and theology at St. Peter's Seminary, London, Ontario. His further studies were at Western University, University of Detroit and College of Education, Toronto, Ontario. Following his ordination, June 10, 1933, in London by Bishop John D. Kidd he was appointed to the staff of the order's high school, Scollard Hall, North Bay, Ontario. He was then appointed president of St. Jerome's High School from 1941 to 1948. He then began an illustrious preaching career with the Resurrectionist Mission Band which lasted for 8 years. His tall stature, booming voice, sensitivity and humor enabled his message to enrich

the hearts of many. He preached premarital courses, called "Cana Conference". I remember him preaching once at Mt. Agnes Academy, Hamilton, Bermuda where he refuted the question, "You are not married. What do you know about it?" With a smile from ear to ear he replied "You don't have to be a chicken and lay an egg to know how to make a good omelette. Fr. Mike was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Parish, Hamilton from 1956 until 1963 where he was responsible for the excellent planning of a new rectory.

From his Hamilton Parish he stretched out his hand to the priests and novices at the C. R. Novitiate, Dundas. From 1963 until the time of his death he served as the promoter of the Ressurrectionist Bolivian Missions. Fr. Michael died on March 27, 1970. His funeral Mass was held at St. Aloysius Church, next door to the new Resurrection College. Interment was in the same resurrectionist plot where the remains of his uncle Fr. Anton rests.

Written by Tony Mancini

A brief history of the Historical Society of St. Boniface and Maryhill Community

Our Historical Society was established in 1977 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of St Boniface Church. The Society, which is a member of the Ontario Historical Society, was incorporated on 13 September, 1980. The 13 member Board which operates the society meets monthly and last year we reported over 4000 volunteer hours to the Ontario Historical Society in our annual report.

The mission of our Society is: 1] to collect, preserve, and exhibit and publish the history of the area, 2] to diffuse information relative to the history of the area; 3] to encourage and develop within the community the study of history and 4] maintain a resource centre in the area.

Currently we have over 300 members spread across Canada and the United States with some members in Europe. Members receive 3-4 newsletters per year and a calendar created especially for the membership. Many of the earliest settlers of Maryhill came from Soufflenheim and nearby villages in northeastern France along the Rhine River - just north of Strasbourg in present day Alsace. We have regular contact and visitors from this area today. Halter House next to St. Boniface Catholic School is our resource centre. Once home to Edward Halter, one of Maryhill's most famous pioneers, it contains documents, artifacts and the society records. There is an extensive archives and library which are easily accessed in person, or via correspondence.

Our Canada Day celebration began 2 years ago and has attracted about 100 visitors each year - Heritage Day began in 1997 and is the major event for our society members. Heritage day includes Mass at St. Boniface, a tour of the wayside shrines followed by lunch, a silent auction and raffle and the presentation of recognition certificates to society members for significant birthdays and anniversaries. Last year we hosted 130 people.

**Historical Society of St.
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Rest in Peace

Drexler, Mary (Kieffer)
Frank, William
Splint, Hendrick
Szarvas, Sally
Zettel, Jean