

St. Boniface and Maryhill Community Historical Society

Thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting

President Report

Our board meet for the first time on Sunday afternoon January 10th. The purpose of the first meeting was to plan and organize our goals and objectives for the coming year. A lot of hours were volunteered by the board to achieve our many goals. These are listed in the following report.

Community

A goal this year was to reach out to the community. This was achieved in a number of projects.

We offered the Halter House to other community groups for the purpose of holding small group meetings. The Catholic Women's League, Holy Name Society, Parks committee, and Knights of Columbus took advantage of this service.

The Historical Society joined with the above groups for a joint fund raising event in the spring. All groups were happy with the results.

Another event this year was the St. Boniface and Maryhill Historical Society History prize for a grade 8 Student. The award was given to Seth Doerr.

We presented a display of our society at the Woolwich Township fair in October and the Kitchener Genealogy fair in November.

As well we made presentations at the Woolwich Heritage Committee in May and Guelph-Eramosa Heritage Committee in September.

We co-ordinated and managed Doors Open 2016 at three sites...Halter House, Old walled Cemetery and the Church.

We are upgrading some of the wayside crosses. Thanks to Doug Keller for this work. We are also establishing and locating records for land allotments of the crosses. This is in collaboration with Woolwich and Guelph-Eramosa Townships.

Halter House

Thanks to Diane Strickler, Mary Ann Stroh and Mary Campagnaro for the Archives and Genealogy, Church and School and the resource centre. They have also cleaned the house, updated inventory and paper records.

Cataloged artifacts and donations.

Various repairs and upgrades were carried out by building chair Brian Lorentz.

Programs

We had a very successful Canada Day. It started with the raising of the Canadian flag on a new flag pole installed by Brian Lorentz.

On hand for this occasion were Harold Albrecht, Member of Parliament for the area, Mike Harris, Member of the Provincial Parliament and Murray Martin the local Councillor for the area.

In the afternoon, Shelia and Ken Kurtz had a busy schedule for all to enjoy. Antique display by Doug Keller, old cars and tractors and music provided by Al Hurtle kept us entertained. Thanks to Danny and Diane Strickler for the tent.

Our main event for the year is Heritage Sunday in September. Again this year we had a full house at the community centre. Ham and scalloped potatoes were on the menu along with cake.

Those celebrating 50th and 60 wedding anniversaries were recognized and presented with a certificate to remember the occasion. As well those celebrating 80th, 90th and above birthdays were presented with a mug to mark the occasion.

Thanks to Lee Ann and Taylor Wetzel and their committee for a very successful silent auction, door prizes and main raffle.

Thanks to all who donated items to the silent auction and raffle?

Membership

Our membership stays around 380 per year. Carol Neumann has done a review of the membership. The membership year now matches the calendar year.

Carol is also in charge of a new subcommittee called the Logo and Branding Committee. You may have noticed a new logo on newsletters and a flag flying on the flag

pole. The new logo doesn't replace our name, but gives a modern logo to the society. The logo represents the church on the hill, an early Georgian house in the village. Surrounding this are green fertile fields. Check the banner on display today.

The publication committee was chaired by Ashley Honsberger. Ashley published three newsletters this year. As well she designed our advertizing flyer for our fund raiser. She is also in charge of the web. Ashley has been redesigning the site and you will see more changes in the coming months.

We continue to send birthday cards to those over 80. Diane Beitz sends out these cards. As with all mailed items we have issues from time to time. We may have wrong address, the person is deceased, or they don't receive mail anymore

Executive

Marlene Burkhart is past president and has been responsible for assembling the board for the past year. She also assembled the incoming board. Thanks Marlene.

Fran Vegh is our treasurer. The title says it all as she watches that we follow a set budget. Thanks Fran

Ken Hansen is our secretary. He spends a lot of hours on the computer keeping the records in order. Thanks Ken.

Mary Ann Stroh was vice-president and sounding board. Thanks Mary Ann

Future

As President for 2017, there are a few things we are hoping to complete.

We have applied for two grants. One is to replace the windows and doors in the Halter House. Another grant is to be develop a new interactive and community based web site.

As well we are hoping to put historical signage at certain locations in 2017.

Another celebration is Canada's 150th. As well the Heritage Society is celebrating 40 years; the present St. Boniface Church is 140years in2017.

Thanks

Thank you to Susie Motz for the printing and design work. I appreciated your help.

This year we are saying goodbye to a few board members.

Mary Campagnaro, Ashley Honsberger and Brian Lorentz are taking a well deserved break. Thanks for your service and know that we may still call on you.

We welcome the new members to the board. Thanks for accepting the positions. We hope you will enjoy the experience.