

Annual Report of
Historical Society of St Boniface and Maryhill Community for 2016

by Ken Hanson, Secretary

20 Nov 2016

OHS # 264

Incorporation # 000473007

Overview

- **Membership:** Ontario Historical Society # 264
- *2016: 385 individual members 331 households*
- *2015 380 individual members 322 households*
- **3734 volunteer hours** by Board and society members submitted to Ontario Historical Society
- **14 member Board** met 8 times at Halter House; Executive met 5 times. There were numerous committee meetings
- **Standing Committees** - There were 10 standing committees for 2016. These committees chaired by a board member include board members and volunteers - the committees do the hands on activities of the society. Our 14 member board receives help from c. 10 regular volunteers.
- **Publication Committee** [Ashley Honsberger - Chair] Published 3 newsletters and annual calendar. Website and e-mail address changed due to increased costs for renewing contract-New website to be created in 2017.
- **Membership Committee** [Carol Neumann - Chair] Records restructured to annual, life single and life couple/household ; membership year now matches the calendar year.
- New ad hoc subcommittee **Logo and Branding Committee** [Carol Neumann - Chair] formed to create new logo and other branding items- banner, business cards, name badges. Banner is on display today.
- **Birthday Club and Community** - [Diane Beitz - Chair] Spreadsheet of birthday club members created; cards sent to those celebrating 80th birthday.

- **Archives & Genealogy** [Diane Strickler Chair] & **Halter House Resource Centre** [Mary Ann Stroh chair] & **Church and School** [Mary Campagnaro Chair]
- Sacramental records for 2016 added to archives
- Responding to 15 genealogy requests, assessing artifacts and paper donations to archives and to Halter House
- Continued culling and updating of inventory and paper records and artifacts
- Donated items to Grace Schmidt Room/Kitchener Public Library, Carmelite Sisters, Cambridge Fashion Museum
- Thorough cleaning of Halter House Resource Centre
- Traditional Open House for society and community held weekly on Sundays 11-3 from June-Sep - visitor numbers down this year but special events numbers up [Ron Brohman of Montana family gathering with rededication their ancestor's grave marker had 40 visitors]. Had 4 special request tours.
- Monument listing names of tombstones which have disintegrated erected in Old Walled cemetery erected - Society provided research, names and a donation.
- **Program Committee** [Ken Kurtz - Chair] Canada Day celebration with flag raising ceremony in morning with MP and MPP and local councillor [40 in attendance]and Open House in afternoon [60 in attendance] - our 3rd annual Canada Day celebration was most the successful to date.
- **Fundraising Committee** [Lee Ann Wetzel Chair]with help of Taylor Wetzel Joined several other groups in Maryhill for a Meat Fundraiser to launch BBQ season. Modest income. Raffle and Silent Auction fundraisers continued with Raffle income down slightly and Silent Auction income up considerably from 2015. See Financial Report for 2016 for these numbers. We are most grateful for the all the silent auction items donated from our community
- **Wayside Crosses** repaired where needed - new cross and corpus being created. Signage [explaining the origin of the crosses]erected for the 2 crosses in Guelph Eramosa [Doug Keller chair]
- **Building Maintenance** Various upgrades/repairs to Halter House apartment and Halter House Resource centre - [Brian Lorentz Chair]

Reaching out to the community and building partnerships

- Inaugurated St Boniface and Maryhill HS History prize for Grade 8 student. Seth Doerr Grade 8 student at St Boniface was the first recipient.
- Halter House offered for meetings to community groups [Community Park, Knights and Catholic Women's League for first time]
- Heritage Sunday - 25 Sep - Community Honouree: Maryhill Firefighters, 5 Anniversary Couples and several birthday milestones. Lunch Attendance 105.
- In progress of upgrading some of the Wayside Crosses and establishing/locating records for the land allotments of the crosses. In collaboration with Woolwich and Guelph-Eramosa Twp.
- Presented display of our society at **Kitchener Genealogy Fair** - 5 Nov -
- Presented display of our society at **Woolwich Twp Heritage Fair** - 15 Oct
- Co-ordinated and managed **Doors Open 2016** -at 3 sites: Halter Resource Centre House [172 visitors], Old Walled Cemetery, [86 visitors] St Boniface Church [186 Visitors]
- Presentation at **Woolwich Heritage Committee Meeting** May 2016
- Presentation at **Guelph-Eramosa Heritage Committee** Sep 2016
- Submitted reports to Ontario Historical Society and Ministry of Government Services.
- Requested capital funding from **Ontario Trillium 150** to replace windows and doors in Halter House [August] and operational funding from **Woolwich Twp Grant Committee** to develop a new interactive & community based website. [October] Expect to hear early in 2017 if we are successful.