

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

by Ken Hanson, Secretary

19 Nov 2017

OHS # 264

Incorporation # 000473007

Overview

- **Membership:** Ontario Historical Society # 264
- **2017:** 381 individual members 317 households
- **2016:** 385 individual members 331 households
- **2015:** 380 individual members 322 households
- 3770 **volunteer hours** by Board and society members submitted to Ontario Historical Society for 2017
- **13 member Board** met 9 times at Halter House; **Executive** met 8 times. There were numerous committee meetings.
- Successful application to Woolwich Twp for \$1700 to develop an interactive community website for our community. **Website** developed by Ken Hanson and Linda Kennedy.
- **Standing Committees** - There were 10 standing committees for 2017. These committees chaired by a board member include board members and volunteers - the committees do the hands on activities of the society. Our 13 member board receives help from regular volunteers.
- **Publication Committee** [Ken Hanson chair] New **website** launched in February by Ken Hanson and Linda Kennedy. Susan Motz edited three **newsletters** and one **calendar**. These are very popular with our membership. We are working on establishing electronic distribution of newsletters to address postage costs and have applied for a Woolwich grant to set up WiFi at Halter House. Website has a section devoted to Maryhill HS in the news and our connections with other Heritage groups.
- **Membership Committee:** [Carol Neumann Chair] Our membership year is the calendar year. The membership dues will increase on 1 January 2018; Single Annual \$25, Single Lifetime \$50. These will be the only two categories. Current membership categories will be grandfathered.

- **Birthday Club**- [Diane Beitz - Chair] Spreadsheet of birthday club members created; cards to those celebrating 80th birthday. Our thanks to MP Albrecht for his help.
- **Archives & Genealogy, Church & School** [Diane Strickler Chair] - prepared historical pages for website, handled queries for archival materials, provided research assistance electronically and at Halter House. Added 2017 records to archives. Diane's writes regularly about events in the MHS in her blog: <https://observerxtra.com/blog/>
- **Halter House Resource Centre** [Mary Ann Stroh] Completed Inventory of Halter House documents and artifacts with committee as outlined in President's Report.
- Traditional Open House for society and community held weekly on Sundays 11-3 from June-Sep - visitor numbers down again this year. 2018 Board to address this issue.
- **Program Committee** [Ken Kurtz - Chair] **Canada 150 celebration** with flag raising ceremony in morning with MP and MPP and local councillor. Over 100 were in attendance over the day. BBQ lunch was sponsored by Knights. The Village Historical Wagon Tours thanks to Diane and Herb Beitz was a big hit. Ariss Maryhill Lions, Maryhill Firefighters and local antique auto and farm machine groups had displays. Day ended with Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Boniface.
- **Heritage Sunday** - 24 Sep our 40th anniversary. Mass followed by Tour of Wayside Shrines, Lunch, Silent Auction and Raffle. 50th and 60th Anniversary Couples and several birthday milestones 80 and over. All honourees received specially designed framed certificates. Lunch attendance abt 80. New Horizon [Joan Haid] was the community group honoured.
- **Fundraising Committee** [Lee Ann Wetzel Chair] with help of Taylor Wetzel ran two successful fundraisers: Silent Auction and Raffle. See results in Financial Report. All the items for Silent Auction and Raffle were donated.
- **Building Maintenance and Wayside Shrines** [Doug Keller Chair] New cross and corpus created for Klein Cross; Halter House received several upgrades - electrical panel to code, new hot water tank ...
- **Website** new website includes community and heritage links as well as sections devoted to our archives, history and current news archive. Current and historic photos are prominent. Hits: 6000 since launch last February.

Reaching out to the community and building partnerships

- Ariss- Maryhill Lions presented the MHS a community award as part of the 100th anniversary of Lions.
- Tom Schell, Fran Vegh and Ken Hanson attended the Canada 150 celebration for Guelph-Eramosa on 8 July and set up table promoting our society - several our wayside shrines are located ion Guelph Eramosa.
- Board members Diane Strickler and Mary Ann Stroh received Canada 150 Volunteers awards from MP Albrecht and MPP Harris.
- Alex Zettel a Grade 8 student at St Boniface CS awarded our the Maryhill HS History prize. Alex's Zettel ancestor was one of the founders of Maryhill.
- Halter House used for meetings of community groups [Community Park, Knights and Catholic Women's League] .
- Community groups can post information on our website.
- Board is working with Woolwich Heritage committee on creating a Heritage designation for Maryhill Village.
- Tom Schell, Ken Hanson, Diane Strickler and Linda Kennedy met with Chris deGreer researcher who is exploring significant landscapes in Woolwich and Wellesley Twp.
- See: <https://observerextra.com/2017/08/10/study-looks-residents-provide-input-significant-landscapes-woolwich-wellesley-township/>