

The Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community

Summer Newsletter 2018



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Notes from the President's Desk

We have reached the half way point of the year. Time does fly!

Your Board has been busy preparing for our upcoming events. We have two major events in the next few months : Canada Day and Heritage Sunday.

We continue to represent our Society at the various venues related to Heritage in the community.

On 21 April we participated in the Genealogy Fair at the Kitchener Public Library.

A special day was the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation "Discovering Heritage" Day on 12 May.

On that day our very own archivist, **Diane Strickler** was awarded **Dr. Jean Steckle Award**. The award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in heritage education through teaching, writing, or by example, and who has encouraged and mentored others in the understanding and appreciation of the natural or cultural heritage in Waterloo Region. Many attendees spoke to us of her guidance and mentoring for them.

We can be very proud of Diane. Please join in offering your congratulations to her at the first opportunity.

I have enclosed a special letter to all Members regarding fundraising, so you may be better informed about our efforts in this area and how you can help.

Have a great summer and please offer any feedback. We appreciate your comments and suggestions.

~George

Ask the Archivist

Dear Diane,

How did The Diane Strickler Collection of Family Trees originate?

The Diane Strickler Collection of Family Trees consists of 1,371 families. with data from church records, naturalization registers, cemetery transcriptions, as well as Waterloo township census returns complemented by published family histories.

I began translating the records from Latin with the names in German script in January of 1980. Father Bill Sherlock the then pastor of St. Boniface was interested in history and would get out his Latin dictionary to help me. This took me 2 years as I wrote everything down in stenograph pads and school exercise books. Then I typed all the information on an electric typewriter. One weekend I decided to see how long it would take to put all the records of a particular family together. I started with Adam. It took – 4 ½ hours- that wasn't bad.

Afterwards I then carried on down the alphabet. Some families took just a couple of hours, but the large families took 25 or more hours. It took about 15 years to complete all the families we have in our archives. We have not only French (Alsace names) and German but also other nationalities – Polish, Irish, etc.

How are records organized?

Because no other church or parish had done something like this I asked Ryan Taylor and Susan Hoffman both at the Kitchener Public Library and Ken Foyter archivist for Hamilton Diocese for some guidelines. Ryan & Susan suggested a cost and to give each record a number after the B-M-D. B for baptism, M for Marriage, D for Death. Our church records go back to 1847.

Future Events

Happy Canada Day!



- Canada Day Celebration
Sunday, July 1 at Edward Halter House with Horse drawn wagon tours of the village, BBQ, Antique and Community displays which will be happening from 11a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Heritage Day Celebration
Sunday, September 23
10a.m. mass at St. Boniface Church, tours of Wayside Shrines, followed by Lunch, Silent Auction, Raffle and Honours to our members with 80th Birthdays and significant Wedding Anniversaries at the Maryhill Community Centre
- Annual General Meeting
Sunday, November 18 at the Maryhill Community Centre from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Short business meeting, followed by a Guest Speaker and light refreshments. All are welcome.



St. Boniface Catholic School turns 120

St Boniface School – continued from the Spring Newsletter

In 1929 a wire fence was erected along the road in front of the school. In 1933, in the basement, a dining room was furnished where the children were served a hot drink at noon. As part of their Home Economics training, girls in the senior grades made cocoa, tomato, carrot and potato soup and fried beets to serve students in the winter. Later, because of the dampness of the basement room, the Home Economics equipment was moved upstairs and the spare room, which housed a stage, was furnished as a dinner room. At the same time the stage was fitted with manual training benches and tools and the subject manual training was added to the program of studies. This room also served as a community hall where meetings and card parties were held.

At one time, there was a movable wall of folding doors in present day Room Eight. This allowed the general-purpose room with stage to be greatly enlarged, particularly for school Christmas concerts which were well attended. There was some mention of spring concerts in the 1920's. In 1937 electricity was installed in the school.

The School Sisters also taught Grades 9 and 10 until 1960 when the classes were discontinued and students went into Kitchener for high school. In 1965 the school was enlarged with the addition of two new classrooms, two washrooms and a large gymnasium, which doubled as a church hall. Further expansion took place three years later with two more classrooms, a staff room for the teachers, and a storage room. A new office for the principal and secretary were also installed.

Over the past years with many societal changes including the emergence of large district school boards St Boniface continued to serve its community. At this time, we understand there are no plans to mark the closing of 120 years of education in Maryhill.



In the News



Warren Stauch, Chair of Waterloo RHF and Diane Strickler Photo by Jim Glass Waterloo HS

Members Receive Honors

This year the Waterloo Historical Society and the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation combined their annual meetings on 12 May at the Waterloo Regional Museum

The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation awards were handed out as part of the Waterloo Historical Society's meeting in the afternoon. Congratulations to Maryhill Historical Society members Stephanie Massel and Diane Strickler who received special awards. See President's notes for Diane's award.

Stephanie's Award of Excellence was for her many years of service on the board of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, and for her advocacy work on heritage issues with the KW Association of Real Estate Agents and the City of Kitchener's planning policies.

Congratulations Stephanie and Diane!

Identify the Artifact

From the past: Hand sickle, or bagging hook



A hand-held [agricultural tool](#) designed with variously curved [blades](#) and typically used for [harvesting](#), or reaping, [grain](#) crops or cutting [succulent forage](#) chiefly for feeding [livestock](#).

Since the beginning of the [Iron Age](#) hundreds of region-specific variants of the sickle have evolved, initially of iron and later steel. This great diversity of sickle types across many cultures can be divided into smooth or serrated blades, both of which can be used for cutting either green grass or mature cereals using slightly different techniques. The serrated blade that originated in prehistoric sickles still dominates in the reaping of grain and is even found in modern grain-harvesting machines and in some kitchen knives. Source: Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sickle>, May 28, 2018, photo: Tim Vegh

Reminders



- For those of you who have not returned raffle ticket money please do so promptly
- The Edward Halter Resource Centre House is open every Sunday afternoon from June 17 to September 2 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and by appointment any other time. Everyone is welcome to stop in and tour the House, look through resources or have a friendly chat.