

Maryhill  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## Upcoming Events



### CANADA DAY - JULY 1ST , 2018

Celebrate Canada Day with the Maryhill Historical Society at Halter House!

- Mass at 10 am in St. Boniface Church
- Flag Raising at 11am with local dignitaries and the reading of our veterans' names
- BBQ lunch with free will offering
- Wagon rides at 1pm within the community. Narrated by local historians
- Antiques displays and music

### HERITAGE SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Let's celebrate our heritage together!

- Mass at 10am in St. Boniface followed by a tour of the church
- Tour of Wayside Shrines 10:45-11:30am. This car tour stops at each of the 4 shrines where a brief history is recounted.
- Lunch, Raffle, Displays, Silent Auction and Program 11 am-2 pm
- Halter House open 1:30-3:00pm.
- If you wish to look at specific records please contact the archivist prior via e-mail –maryhillroots@gmail.com

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on November 18th from 2pm-4pm at the Community Hall. Business meeting, refreshments, guest speaker and presentations. All are welcome!

We'd love to hear from you.

**Website:**

**maryhillroots.com**

**Email:**

maryhillroots@gmail.com

**Address:**

**Edward Halter House**

**1338B Maryhill Road,**

**Maryhill, Ontario**

**N0B 2B0**



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At our first Board meeting of the year we had a very productive brainstorming session. With the participation and input from board members, we put in place our initiatives for

the year.

Based on the very successful Canada Day celebration in 2017, and our desire to involve the community in a broader manner, we have begun planning that event again. See details in this edition.

The Maryhill Knights of Columbus are planning their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and homecoming for June 23<sup>rd</sup>. As this will be an opportunity for us to welcome past residents and Knights members that day, we will participate by having our Heritage House open that day and displaying some of their archives.

One of our goals is to engage our members more. We ask for your support in our events and others that we are participating in.

In addition, we welcome our members to any of our Board meetings. Your suggestions and ideas are most welcome. If you cannot make it to a board meeting, please offer any suggestions to one of our board.

Contact information is contained within this edition of the newsletter.

St Boniface School is celebrating it's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. This presents an opportunity to reach out to our younger community members.

We are further pleased to offer WiFi connection now at the Halter House. Because of a suggestion from a member, there is also the availability of a copier/printer in the premises for use when researching. A "shout out" to Township of Woolwich for their support to bring high speed internet to the Halter House.

Finally, thanks to Susan Motz who for several years acted as our newsletter editor and did a great job. Susie has decided to step away from that role. A lot of work and time is involved in developing these newsletters. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact us. Thanks to Samantha Isley for her help in stepping into this role on short notice.

On a personal note, I am pleased to serve as your President this year. I appreciate the help and support from our board members. I would encourage you to support your Society and participate in any way you feel you can contribute. I look forward to hearing from you at

[gisley@golden.net](mailto:gisley@golden.net)



## ASK THE ARCHIVIST

Our resident Archivist Diane Strickler receives many questions in the course of the year. Here are a few recent queries.

**Q:**One of my ancestors was Josephine Lehman[n] married to Martin Goetz in Maryhill in 1848 who died about 1855. Although there is a marriage record no burial death record exists in the archives.

**A:**During the years 1852 - 1858 no priest is mentioned in our church records performing baptisms and marriages. Also it was not required for priests to record burials just baptisms and marriages. However Maryhill does have many recorded burials.

**Q:**Also can you explain why in some records Lehman[n] is spelled with the double n?

**A:**Over the years many with an Alsatian and German immigrants anglicized their names dropping the double "n" for a variety of reasons.

**Q:**How can I locate early Catholic records of my family in Waterloo County?

**A:**Where records are located depends on when you family arrived and how long they were residents in the community – thus a baptism, marriage or death. St. Boniface records date back to 1847. St. Agatha was the first parish in Waterloo County and Maryhill was a mission of St. Agatha (1834) in our early days. These records are now kept at St. Jerome's College at the University of Waterloo. Other early records may be at the Basilica of Our Lady in Guelph, St. Mary's Kitchener (1857) or St. Mary's Cambridge (1857). You could also look at the records of the first Catholic parish in this part of the province, which was St. Augustine's in Dundas ON. Priests travelled to various settlements performing baptisms, blessing marriages and blessing gravesites along the way. Once back in their home church (in Guelph, St. Agatha or Dundas), they left their records there. Remember – these records are in Latin and the names in German Script.

***This year St Boniface Catholic School celebrates its 120 th Birthday. But our school dates back to 1834.***

St Boniface is the oldest Roman Catholic school in the present Regional Municipality of Waterloo (formerly Waterloo County) still in existence. It is believed that as early as 1834 New Germany had a school – probably doubling as a Church. In 1843 land was transferred from Lucas Zettel to the commissioner of common schools for the construction of a public school. The original deed had specified “for the Roman Catholic inhabitants,” but this was crossed out because the land was for a public school and they could not prevent non-catholics from attending. This was a two-room structure made of red brick. In the 1851 census it was listed as thirty by thirty feet. In the winter over one hundred students attended, learning German, English, arithmetic, writing, reading and geography. This school was located at 1366 Maryhill Road. Construction of a larger school began in 1886 and by December 1st of that year the building was blessed and its doors opened to scholars.

On January 2, 1882, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters M. Michael, M. Evangelista and M. Begga arrived to teach in our school and assist the priest. The first lay teachers were Theobald Wadel, Jacob Leyes (who married Caroline Brohman), Mr. Gforerer and Mr. Troy. The nuns taught the younger children. By January 7, 1884 the Sisters had taken over the boys’ school as well. In September of 1890, the school trustees, during the absence of Father Foerster, hired a male teacher, Mr. Louis Kraemer, for the older boys. This move was opposed by Father and many ratepayers. In 1895 a vote was taken at the August school meeting to decide whether a male teacher was to be hired for 1896. Not one person voted in favour; therefore the Sisters again took over teaching the older boys.

In 1898, once again the community erected a new [ our present] school. The old school was dismantled and sold when the new school was completed. The final result was a two-storey brick school thirty-six by sixty-four feet. It consisted of four well-lit and ventilated classrooms, two halls and cloak rooms.

Classes began there on the 16th of October 1898. On June 19th, 1899, the children were called to school by the new bell for the first time. This bell now stands on a special cairn between the school and the Edward Halter Home. The school was surrounded by an immense playground, which was bordered by maple and evergreen trees. Former students have fond memories of building leaf houses in the fall when the maples were losing their leaves.

*to be continued in Summer Newsletter*



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Executive: 2018**

- **President**— George Isley
- **Vice President**— Lee Ann Wetzel
- **Secretary** -Ken Hanson
- **Treasurer**— Frances Vegh
- **Past President**-Tom Schell



### **Directors: 2018**

- Diane Beitz
- Liz Bruder
- Doug Keller
- Linda Kennedy
- Carol Neumann
- Mary Ann Stroh
- Diane Strickler

#### **DO YOU KNOW?**

Our website is constantly improving and additions are being made frequently.

There is a wealth of information available to our members.

Please check it out. It is user friendly and easy to navigate. Give it a try!

Your comments and feedback are always welcome.

**[maryhillroots.com](http://maryhillroots.com)**

The Maryhill Historical Society is looking for volunteers who wish to serve on the board for a two-year commitment. (2018-2020)

The Board meets about 8 times a year and helps plan events and look after the finances of the society

If you would be interested in serving on the board please contact Tom Schell (Chair of the Nominating Committee) by email at [maryhillroots@gmail.com](mailto:maryhillroots@gmail.com) or by phone at 519-837-6067.

