

The Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community

Maryhill
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Join Our Society! Become a Member!

Membership: \$25 Annual \$50 Lifetime

Summer 2019

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**CANADA
DAY**

Edward Halter House

11am to 3pm

Horse Drawn Wagon Tours

BBQ

Children's Crafts

Music

Tours of Walled Cemetery

Antique Displays

Monday July 1 2019

We have included

Raffle Tickets

for our annual fundraiser with this newsletter. Please support us by returning the completed tickets and cash/cheque (to: Maryhill Historical Society) by September 20 2019. Return to any Board Member, St. Boniface Collection Basket or drop in the mail.

Thank You and Good Luck!



Open House Sundays

Edward Halter House

1338 Maryhill Rd

June 16 to Sept 1

1pm to 4pm

Join us

Heritage Day Sept 22

\$20—Tickets available soon. We celebrate & honour our members at Heritage Day. Please let us know of anyone with milestone anniversaries (50, 60, 65 years)/birthdays! (80,85,90, 95, 100+)

A Note From The President

Greetings to all members. Our summer season presents one of our major community events – our celebration of Canada Day. Please stop by the Halter House, say hello, and enjoy the festivities on Monday July 1st. This celebration is a great example of a small community with a big spirit!

The Society held a walkabout in the village of Maryhill earlier this summer. Some of our neighbors have heard of us, but didn't know what we do. We were able to personally meet with many residents in the village and introduce our Society and the work we do to preserve our heritage.

One bit of criticism we hear occasionally is that we are an organization with a bias for St. Boniface Church and the Catholic religion ONLY. Let me stress that this is a myth! True - we are located near St Boniface Church and its significant place in the history and heritage of Maryhill; however, we are open to all people interested in the heritage of our surrounding community. We continually strive to include all. In this newsletter we list the various schools for which we have gathered class photographs. We try to interview interesting people, regardless of their faith, and feature articles and areas of interest to all.

Please drop by our open house this summer on Sunday afternoons beginning June 16. We would enjoy meeting and hearing from you. Your feedback and information is important to the continued growth of your Society.

I hope you enjoy the article on Shantz Station in this edition. I was born and raised in the area and the article brings back many fond memories! Enjoy and have a great summer!

George

From of Our Community: Ida (Krieger) Fowler

Ida grew up in the Maryhill area and shares stories from almost 100 years ago!

Ida was born on the family farm in the spring of 1924 to parents Elizabeth "Bessy" (Hallman) and Herbert Krieger. The family farm was located on Shantz Station Road, just south of the SS#14 schoolhouse (today this is the Croatia Club). This farm was in the Krieger family since 1898.

Ida's siblings included:

- Audrey (died at age 6 weeks)
- Donald
- Archie
- Hubert (died at at 6 weeks)

Ida believes her brother Hubert died from pneumonia. She noted years ago, when sick, a doctor would be summoned for a house call; however they wouldn't necessarily come right away and often waited for another call in the area.

Ida spoke fondly of her childhood. Her first memory is of skating on a small pond in the farm fields and bush. The water in the bush would freeze and neighbors would get together to skate amongst the trees. They would go to Schillings' store where they would change into and out of their skates. She remembers eating peanuts after skating and the Schilling's floor was covered with peanut shells. Ida says that it was a magical experience as the group would skate and sing together.

Ida and her siblings walked to school. They didn't have far to go but always went to the barn and let the cows out into the bush in the morning, and after school the cows would be waiting at the gate for them, ready to head back into the barn. Ida remembers the milk truck coming to her house to pick up milk from the cows. She also recalls the family making their own butter.

Ida considers herself lucky – she says most families had to step outside in the cold to reach the outhouse. The outhouse at her farm was indoor – off the woodhouse. She remembers using catalogue and telephone book pages as toilet paper.

The railroad ran through Ida's farm. She remembers when King George VI travelled to Kitchener by train (1939). She recalls the train passing through her property; the royal couple were situated at the back of the train and waved as they went by. Ida said they often had railway tramps visit her property. Some families allowed the tramps to stay in their barn for a night, but

*A **tramp** is a long-term homeless person who travels from place to place as a vagrant, traditionally walking all year round. The word tramp became a common way to refer to such people in 19th-century Britain and America.*

Ida's father always offered up the couch in the kitchen. In the morning her mother would pack a lunch for the hobo to take with him as he ventured off to tailgate on the next train. Ida says the tramps would leave markings on the fence posts to indicate that the family was friendly and as such, they often had strangers pass through their doors.

When Ida was young, she noted that door-to-door vendors were common. A rag man would come on a horse and cart and purchase old rags for 1 cent a pound. A junkman named Sheeney would collect used junk. Mr. Brown from Guelph would come on Mondays with a selection of men's dress shirts.



More about Ida (Krieger) Fowler

Ida finished grade 8 and at age 15 she moved into Kitchener to her Grandma Krieger's house where she was employed by Smiles and Chuckles, the chocolate factory. She walked a mile to work and earned 14 cents an hour. Ida worked in the plant for 14 years and then the chocolate store for 3 years.

Idea remembers during 1939 that many soldiers were stationed in Kitchener. She remembers going to many dances (sometimes 3 times/week) during this time. Dances with big band/orchestras were held at Summer Gardens dance hall – an auditorium on 77 Queen Street S in Kitchener. She remembers many barn dances with square dancing in Maryhill, the Garden Parties in Maryhill, and dancing at the dance hall at the Commercial Hotel as well as at the Casino in Bridgeport. Ida elaborated on the Maryhill Garden Parties. She said they were huge affairs attended by everyone from the community – not just parishioners of St. Boniface Church. There was always a dance in the evening. Ida wasn't catholic, but she remembers Father Diemert as a very active member of the community and recalls he drove a coupe car with a rumble seat!

Ida says she would hitch-hike to dances from Kitchener to Guelph and remembers a car that stopped. It was the minister from St. Mathew's Lutheran Church in Kitchener, the Church her Grama belonged to. He actually had not stopped to give her a ride, but had stopped for a cat crossing the street, but regardless Ida hopped in! She was embarrassed when she realized who was driving! When she didn't hitchhike, Ida said they would take a taxi to the dances in Guelph for 50 cents.

The family farm was eventually sold and they moved to Kitchener. At age 32, after Ida's father's death, Ida moved home with her mother and they took in boarders to help pay the bills. Ida moved from Smiles and Chuckles to a sales lady at Kaebel's Clothing Store on King St in Kitchener. It was here that she met Earl Fowler – a manager of a boy's clothing store. Earl was a widower, with 2 children. The two fell in love and Ida, at age 56, married! Earl was 11 years older than Ida. They made a home together in Kitchener for 20 years until Earl passed away.

Today – Ida lives in Waterloo, not in a retirement home, but in her own apartment. One of her favourite past-times is to hop on a city bus and head to St. Jacobs where she treats herself to a slice of Strawberry-Rhubarb pie from the Stone Crock Restaurant. Did I mention that Ida turned 95 in April of this year? You'd never know it – she is an active, independent and beautiful lady!



Dear Diane:

Does the Historical Society have school pictures from years ago? If so—what do you have? Can I stop in to look at them or get a copy?

Dear Readers:

The Historical Society has many school photos and we are always looking for more! We have class

pictures from :

- **St. Boniface School** starting 1914
- **#10 Weissenburg**
- **#14 Shantz Station**
- **#6 Pilkington – 4 1/2 Guelph**
- **#6 West Montrose**
- **#7 Winterbourne**
- **# 16 Kossuth**
- **# 22 Roseville**
- **#28 Victoria**
- **Bloomington**

The Halter House is open every Sunday this summer from 1pm to 4pm. There is a photocopier at the house to allow you

to copy our artifacts (for a nominal fee). If you are not local, send us an email or give us a call at 519-829-3569 and we will help you with your requests! Of course, **we welcome any pictures that you have.** We will preserve, index and share originals or gladly take photocopy or digital copies of your pictures to share with our members and future generations.



The History of Shantz Station

Written by Susie Motz with input from Frank Rider & George Isley

Locals know it as Shantz Station, but others passing by would not realize the area has a name. There is no sign to indicate the area is called Shantz Station.

The only indicator would be the name of the road passing through it—Shantz Station Road.

The Settlement of Shantz

Shantz Station today, is the name of the intersection of Shantz Station Road (Waterloo Region Rd 30) and Highway 7, west of Breslau and Kitchener. In 1846 Samuel Y. Shantz and Esther Erb, Pennsylvania Mennonites, settled in this area and raised their 13 children. In 1856, the Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) purchased the farm and built 'Shantz Railway Station'. The railway was the first in Waterloo Township running from Guelph to Berlin (Kitchener). Shantz Station was the first stop and Breslau the second. A village named Shantz was planned here with 64 parcels of land on the survey. There was a post office in this area, perhaps in the Railway Station. The post office was closed in 1863. The Shantz Railway Station burnt down in the late 1800s – the exact date of the fire is unknown – perhaps 1863 with the closing of the post office. For reasons unknown, the plans for the village of Shantz never materialized. Instead, properties grew along Highway 7.

The School

A public school named SS #14 operated on the west side of Shantz Station Road south of Highway 7 from 1843 to 1965. The building remains and today is now a hall owned by the Croatia Club.

Other Businesses

Schilling's Store operated in the early part of the 20th century. In an interview in 2014, Simon Reinhart recalled a little 'shack of a store', located on Shantz Station Road, approximately 1.5 kms south of Highway 7, owned by Herman Schilling and family. It sold candy, cigarettes, gasoline, barbwire, binder twine, nails, and a few other necessities. (I guess barbwire was a necessity back then.) Simon noted that even out at Shantz Station, if the wind was blowing the right way, he could hear the St. Boniface Angelus ringing at noon hour. The focal point at Shantz Station was the White Rose Gas station on the northwest corner of the intersection. It was popular as many of the area farmers stopped there on the weekend for ice cream. A couple of these farm boys loved the ice cream, so they'd buy it by the brick and eat it while chatting with the customers coming in the station. Pete and Leona (nee Zinger – Albert Zinger's daughter,) Wilhelm operated it after Gus Hergott had for some years. After that, Milton Jonas owned it and erected the building that stands there today. Subsequent owners were Charley Davies, Bill Eligson and Harold Lang. It then became Lang's Gas Bar and Restaurant. Ruth (nee McKinley) and Steve Setacci purchased the restaurant, gas bar and dwelling from Harold Lang in 1978. They continued to run it as Lang's until they sold it in 1983. At that time, the restaurant had 8 stools and 5 small tables and was a going concern. It was a popular stop for bus tours. The pumps and underground tanks were removed by Gulf Oil several years later. The restaurant has changed ownership a few times. Today Frannie's Restaurant and Bakery, owned by Fran Adsett serves delicious meals and home baking. A new Pioneer gas station was built several years ago on the northeast corner of the intersection. Originally, this was the Ruben Shantz farm. It was subsequently sold to HiWay Market to build a future store which never materialized.

Although the train station is long gone, the rail stop continues to serve as one of Ontario's significant terminals for shipping grain and is operated by Parrish and Heimbecker. The area is also home to a Greenhouse Nursery "Mall" including Grobe's Nursery, Greenway Nursery, and Belgium Nursery, and once was home to Tillich's Nursery and Waterloo Flowers. Memory Gardens was established in 1951 on the Isley farm. It is a 74 acre cemetery for all faiths. Businesses to the north include Tri-County Sandblasting; Trioka Stables, St. John's Kilmarnock School, Dr. Schaman's Cardiac Fitness Centre and Clinic and Merry Hill Golf Course.



More on Shantz Station ...

Families

Shantz Station was home to many families. The Fay families (Peter and Joseph living on Hwy 7) were good market gardeners and regular vendors at the old Kitchener market for many years, as was Herman Schilling. Several Reinhart families settled at Shantz Station. Edgar Reinhart (born 1933 – son of Francis Alfred Reinhart & Matilda Spitzig) attended Heritage Day in 2018 and noted that every one of his uncles once had a farm on Shantz Station road.

Families from Shantz Station:

- Krieger (Ida, Donnie, Archie)
- Frank family (Betty, Dolly)
- Isley (Ted, Rita & son George)
- Lang (Harold)
- Schilling (Herman)
- Zinger (Mildred)

Shantz station Road

South of #7:

- Bauman
- Bitschy
- Harnack
- Hicknell (Marjorie)

- Kramp
- Luckhart
- McIntosh
- Wood

Shantz Station Road

North of #7:

- Duncalf
- Fay (Peter)
- Grant
- Michalofsky
- Spiegelberg

From the Past - Pop Bottle Hunting

In the 1970s, as kids, we went pop bottle hunting in the ditches around our house. We would bring a large garbage bag, and start walking through the ditch on the side of the country road outside Winterbourne. We'd look for pop or occasionally beer bottles. We would walk for a mile or so and then cross the road and head back home. By the time we got home, we often had a sack full of bottles. We would sort them, and then take the pop bottles to the village store and exchange them for cash. The pop bottle returns were 2 cents each bottle. We then would purchase a pop (for 20 cents) from the chest cooler and a few Double Bubble gums (1 cent each). If we had extra money from our piggy banks, we might buy a chocolate bar or bag of chips.



In those days, many people didn't realize the effects of littering. Cruising down the country roads, people would finish their pop and pitch the bottle out the window. The August 1st 1955 issue of Life magazine ran a two-page article on "Throwaway Living." Consumers read that the modern lifestyle included single-use items. And this gave everyone permission to throw-away their waste!

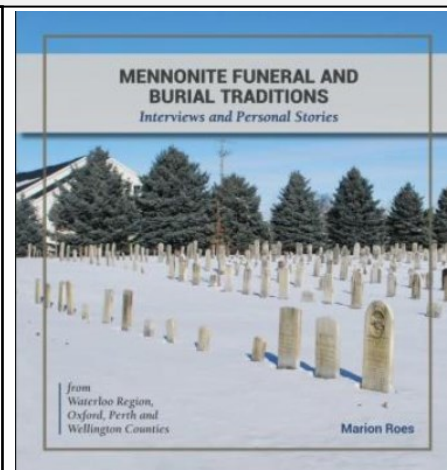
Fast forward decades later our society not only frowns upon littering, recycling is a way of life. It is almost mandatory to reduce and reuse, as we are limited on the amount of garbage we can set at the curb. Pop bottle hunting is a thing of past!

Mennonite Funeral and Burial Traditions

This new book from our member Marion Roes is comprised of interviews and personal stories from various Mennonite groups in Ontario, including local families. Cost is \$20. Locally, it is available at:

- ⇒ Words Worth Books, Waterloo
- ⇒ Living Waters, Elmira
- ⇒ Wallenstein General Store
- ⇒ Anna Mae's in Millbank
- ⇒ Schnurr's General Store in Linwood
- ⇒ Lost Acre Variety Store in West Montrose

If you prefer to order a copy mailed to you contact Marion at mlroes@sympatico.ca or 519-883-1448.



Don't Throw the Baby Out With the Bath Water

Years ago, on 'Bath Day' gathering and heating water to fill a big basin was a lot of work, so several people would enjoy the bathtub before the water was tossed. The eldest went first down to the youngest. By the time it was the baby's turn, the water could be quite dirty, hence the saying "don't throw the baby out with the bath water."



The Last Word

Pony Drinks Beer in The Tavern

The year was 1967. The day was Saturday October 7. Canada's 100th anniversary was the cause for a celebration across the country and Maryhill celebrated with day long festivities. In typical country tradition, they held a soap box derby, a parade, a BBQ, a horseshoe tournament, teenage dance, beauty pageant, and fireworks. There was also an adult dance and many parties.

Some memories from our members:

- Hughie Adams had his steam engine in the parade, whistle blowing!
- Brothers Dan and Dave Rider built and raced "Speed Queen 7" in the soap box derby (but they didn't win!)
- The firemen sponsored a teen age beauty pageant. (Betty Weiler was crowned the winner)
- In the parade Herbie Weiler rode on a stone boat pulled by 2 men riding oxen.
- Bob Brohman drove a Mennonite buggy powered by a gas engine in the parade

MARYHILL CENTENNIAL REUNION

SAT., OCT. 7th

- SOAP BOX DERBY - 11 AM
- PARADE OF FLOATS, BANDS, ETC. - 2 PM
- HOFFBRAU - REFRESHMENTS & FOOD - BAR-B-Q PIG
- HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT
- DRAW FOR 2 MAPLE LEAF DESIGN HAND-MADE QUILTS
- TEENAGE DANCE UNDER TENT WITH REFRESHMENTS - 7:30 PM
- FIREWORKS DISPLAY - 9 PM

Poster of Centennial Day—Courtesy of Tom Schell

One little boy rode his pony in the Centennial parade. That boy was my older brother 'Ricky Motz', age 11. Ricky, wearing a little cowboy hat, proudly rode on his pony Scully to the centre of the village and as he approached the STOP sign, his uncle, Leonard Brohman waved at him from the porch of the Commercial hotel. Leonard and his cousin Bert Brohman motioned for him to bring his



Herbie Weiler behind the Oxen on his stone boat

pony up onto the porch and enter into the jam packed hotel. Ricky entered through the Gentleman's Door and headed up to the bar. The bar tender poured a draft beer for the pony and the men helped Scully to drink it. Ricky enjoyed a bottle of pop and a bag of chips, and then turned the pony around and exited through the Ladies-and-Escorts door and continued up the hill in the parade!

This column will feature stories from years ago—often handed down by word of mouth.