

**Regional Municipality of Waterloo  
Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation  
Board Agenda**



Tuesday, May 28, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Meeting to be held electronically

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

Should you require an alternative format please contact the Regional Clerk at Tel.: 519-575-4400,  
TTY: 519-575-4605, or [regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca)

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**8.1 Waterloo Historical Society May/June Newsletter**

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For information.

**9. Other Business**

**10. Next Meeting - AGM June 5, 2024**

**11. Adjourn**

**Recommended Motion:**

That the meeting adjourn at x:xx x.m.

**WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION**  
**May 2024**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
		No activity	
			<hr/>
			\$ -
			<hr/>

**WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION**  
**Net Funding Position**

Balance in Operating Account - May 23, 2024	\$ 111,091.45
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<b>Net Funding Position at May 23, 2024</b>	<hr/>
	<b>\$ 111,091.45</b>
	<hr/>

Financial Statements of

**WATERLOO REGIONAL  
HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

And Independent Auditor's Report thereon

Year ended December 31, 2023



KPMG LLP  
120 Victoria Street South  
Suite 600  
Kitchener ON N2G 0E1  
Canada  
Tel 519-747-8800  
Fax 519-747-8811

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation

We have audited the financial statements of The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation (the Entity), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023
- the statement of revenues and expenses and accumulated net revenue for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2023, and its results of operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***" section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



***Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.



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- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Kitchener, Canada

# WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 150,318	\$ 161,778
Prepaid expenses	–	3,705
	<u>\$ 150,318</u>	<u>\$ 165,483</u>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 38,781	\$ 65
Grants committed	–	13,740
	<u>38,781</u>	<u>13,805</u>
Fund balance:		
Accumulated net revenue	111,537	151,678
	<u>\$ 150,318</u>	<u>\$ 165,483</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



## WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

### Statement of Revenues and Expenses and Accumulated Net Revenue

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Revenue		
Interest	\$ 8,517	\$ 9,062
	8,517	9,062
Expenses (Schedule)	48,658	5,426
Net revenue (expense)	(40,141)	3,636
Accumulated net revenue, beginning of year	151,678	148,042
Accumulated net revenue, end of year	\$ 111,537	\$ 151,678

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2023

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### **Purpose of foundation:**

The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation is primarily a grant making organization which supports heritage initiatives in Waterloo Region. Its primary purpose is to preserve and financially assist in the preservation of heritage landmarks, historical buildings and other projects of historical significance to the Region of Waterloo.

### **1. Significant accounting policies:**

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada Handbook Part III - Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The Foundation's significant accounting policies are as follows:

#### **(a) Basis of accounting:**

The accrual basis of accounting is used for financial reporting.

#### **(b) Fixed assets:**

The historical cost and accumulated depreciation of fixed assets is not reported. Expenses of a capital nature are charged against revenues in the year they are incurred.

### **2. Grants committed:**

The Region of Waterloo paused grant funding to the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation. The Region is revising its overall approach to discretionary grants. Accordingly, on February 8, 2022, the Heritage Foundation passed a resolution to pause granting or accepting any new applications until an internal strategic review is completed. This pause will provide the Heritage Foundation with an opportunity to review and evaluate how it fits with the Regional Council's strategic priorities, including Thriving Economy, Climate Action, and Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities.

### **3. Statement of cash flows:**

A statement of cash flows has not been presented as it would not provide any additional useful information.

# WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

## Schedule of Expenses

Year ended December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
Grants paid (refunded):		
2023		
Kitchener Public Library – Oral History	\$ 1,786	\$ –
2022		
Paul Langan - One Publication	–	(1,000)
	1,786	(1,000)
Administration:		
Consultants	38,500	–
Insurance	2,482	2,274
Promotion and advertising	3,154	1,377
Miscellaneous	1,222	2,710
Annual general meeting	990	–
Foundation meetings and seminars	524	65
	46,872	6,426
	\$ 48,658	\$ 5,426

# Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation

## Board Minutes



April 23, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Waterloo County Room/Electronic

Present: J. Glass, D. Emberly, P. Elsworthy, P. Wolf, N. Salonen, S. Burke, A. Carswell, R. Shipley

Absent: J. Baker, H. Peller-Oliver

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### 1. Call to Order

Chair J. Glass called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

### 2. Land Acknowledgement

J. Hale, Foundation Secretary provided a land acknowledgement.

### 3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

### 4. Finance Reports

#### 4.1 Accounts and Grants Summary

The Foundation requested that Staff review a circulated list of previous grant applicants to ensure accuracies. J. Hale confirmed that the list of grant applicants circulated annually for the Annual General Meeting is the most accurate list.

In response to the Foundation, Paul Grivicic, Financial Analyst, confirmed that the account does accrue interest on a monthly basis.

Received for information.

R. Shipley joined the meeting at 5:36 pm.

**5. Delegations**

None.

**6. Approval of Minutes - March 26, 2024**

Moved by N. Salonen

Seconded by P. Wolf

That the minutes of Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation from March 26, 2024 be approved.

**Carried**

**7. Committees**

**7.1 Allocations and Finance**

None.

**7.2 Heritage Advisory and Communications**

**7.2.1 Doors Open 2024 Discussion**

Janine Toms, Public Art and Culture Specialist, provided a brief overview of the 2024 Doors Open event on September 21, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the list of 24 event sites will be circulated to the Foundation directly.

J. Glass and D. Emberly offered their support for the event as they have represented the Foundation in previous Doors Open Events.

**7.3 Strategic Planning**

**7.3.1 Heritage Definition**

The Foundation reviewed the proposed definition of heritage and noted that the proposed language reinforces the definition as set out in the Foundation's Letters Patent.

The Foundation debated the proposed definition, specifically, that the word receive is an inclusive term and Staff confirmed that the Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Team at the Region supported the use of the word.

Moved by P. Wolf

Seconded by D. Emberly

That the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation approve the following definition of heritage as dated April 23, 2024:

Heritage is what we receive from the past, what we live with today and what we pass on to future generations. Heritage can be cultural or natural, tangible or intangible, and can apply to all creations of the past that have acquired cultural significance with the passage of time.

**Carried**

### 7.3.2 Equity Funding Stream

The Foundation discussed and debated the proposed Equity Funding Stream Policy and explained that based on the report, provided by the Centre for Community-Based Research, the Strategic Planning Committee decided that having a separate stream was the best approach for inclusivity as per community feedback.

Staff noted that there were minor clerical/grammatical errors in the proposed Equity Funding Stream Policy amendments that were displayed during the meeting and will be circulated at the next Board meeting.

Moved by P. Wolf

Seconded by S. Burke

That the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation approve the proposed Equity Funding Stream as provided under item 7.3.2. as dated April 23, 2024 as amended.

**Carried**

### 7.3.3 Action Plan: Next Steps

The Foundation discussed and deliberated the Strategic Planning Committee approach for next steps and agreed that the Foundation Chair and Committee Chair should delegate to the Administration and Finance Committee on June 4, 2024. The Foundation confirmed that the Committee will meet to plan the delegation presentation before the next Board meeting on May 28, 2024.

The Foundation further discussed that following the delegation to Regional Council the Foundation will discuss when grant funding will resume and establish an advertising campaign for improved community engagement.

P. Wolf left the meeting at 6:09 pm.

**8. Information/Correspondence**

**8.1 WRHF 50th Anniversary, Member D. Emberly Congratulatory Letter**

D. Emberly provided a brief overview of the provided letter and noted the importance of adhering to applicable legislation as the Foundation develops new processes and that the Foundation is a separate corporation from the Region of Waterloo.

Received for information.

**9. Other Business**

None.

**10. Next Meeting - May 28, 2024**

The next meeting of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation is on May 28, 2024.

**11. Adjourn**

Moved by N. Salonen

Seconded by P. Elsworthy

That the meeting adjourn at 6:12 p.m.

**Carried**

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Committee Clerk

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Committee Chair

Heritage is what we receive from the past, what we live with today and what we pass on to future generations. Heritage can be cultural or natural, tangible or intangible, and can apply to all creations of the past that have acquired cultural significance with the passage of time.



## Purpose

Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation strives to embed equity, diversity and inclusion into all aspects of its granting programs and decision making. The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Fund (EDI) is a new funding stream intended to encourage initiatives that will conserve and celebrate our region's diverse heritage and help build community and belonging. The EDI Fund provides funding to eligible individuals and organizations for heritage projects, publications and conservation initiatives that promote or foster equity, diversity, inclusion, reconciliation, and accessibility.

## Award

The value of each grant will vary depending on the nature of the project and the number of applications, to a max of 50% of project cost. Grant proposals that do not receive funding from the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Fund will be automatically considered for the regular funding stream.

## Eligible Projects

Heritage initiatives that include projects, events, buildings or publications, within the Region of Waterloo, that promote or foster equity, diversity, inclusion, reconciliation, and accessibility are encouraged. It is expected that funded projects will result in tangible outputs with public benefit.

In consultation with the Region of Waterloo's Office of Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI), the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation is guided by the heritage commitments and principles of the United Nations, including those found within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is within this spirit that the Heritage Foundation welcomes grant applications that support, but are not limited to:

- Projects that commemorate underrepresented local histories, heritage values, and memory practices;
- Projects that protect and develop diverse cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions; and
- Projects that protect and develop manifestations of underrepresented groups' sciences, technologies and cultures.

## Submission Requirements

- Description: An outline of the initiative, including its purpose and rationale.
- Objectives: The intended objectives/outcomes/outputs of the project, and how they align with the purpose of the Fund.
- Intended impacts: Describe who will be impacted. If applicable, the proposal should indicate how the impact can be sustained or scaled beyond the funding year. The submission should outline how the impacts align with the purpose of the fund.

- Project workplan and timeline: Provide a timeline of milestones that address the lifecycle of the work, including planning, support for collaboration, reporting, project closure, and dissemination.
- Budget: Include a clear budget outlining how all requested funds will be used, as well as all funds received from other sources. Where appropriate, the Foundation may ask applicants for two estimates.

# Mechanisms of Funding Windows and Allocations

## Windows

There will be 3 funding windows per calendar year. Each window is 3 months long, for a total of 9 months of board activity. This reflects the time that the board is sitting and allows for the traditional “off” months of July, August and December.

Each submission period occurs during the first half of the window. During this time, the board will evaluate (and score??) incoming submissions as they are submitted, but NOT rank or issue grants.

During the Evaluation window, the board will continue to evaluate and score any submissions that were received prior to the deadlines.

## Window Deadlines

Deadlines will occur at 11:59 PM on the day of the deadline. Absolutely no extensions will be granted. Any late applications will need to be explicitly submitted in a subsequent submission window. WRHF will inform applicants that their submission has been received and is under consideration.

## Schedule & Window Definition

### Window 1 – Winter (January 1 – March 31)

#### Submission Period (January 1 – February 15)

- Identify the percentage of budget that will be allocated to various streams (i.e. Equity, Property, etc.).
- Open call for grant applications.
- Provide guidelines and application forms on the organization's website.
- Offer assistance/training sessions (workshop or 1on1) for potential applicants. The goal of these sessions would be to:
  - Assess potential of projects to see what portions may or may not be eligible for grant funding.
  - Help applicants work on their applications – ensure that submission criteria are met.
- Close the grant application window.

#### Evaluation and Granting Period (February 16 - March 31)

- Internal review committee assesses applications.
  - External experts may be consulted for evaluation.
- Decision-making process and final selection of grantees.
- Notification of successful and unsuccessful applicants.

During this period, the board can continue to coach future and potential applicants on the process and help them develop applications that would be submitted in subsequent windows. We will also continue to provide guidelines and application forms on WRHF website.

## Window 2 – Spring (April 1 – June 30)

Submission Period (April 1 – May 15)

- Repeat steps from Window 1
- Review process and comments. Incorporate suggestions as needed.

Evaluation and Granting Period (May 16 – June 30)

- Repeat the steps from Window 1,
- Refine the evaluation process based on previous experiences.

## Window 3 – Autumn

Submission Period (September 1 – October 15)

- Repeat steps from Window 1
- Review process and comments. Incorporate suggestions as needed.

Evaluation and Granting Period (October 16 – November 30)

- Repeat the steps from Window 1
- Refine the evaluation process based on previous experiences.

## Window Financing

The **base financing available** will constitute 30% of the money available at the year plus any funds that were not utilized in the previous window. With three windows, this will budget 3 x 30% = 90% of our annual budget. The remaining 10% will be used to cover such incidentals as insurance, IT expenses, meeting costs, advertising and a “slush fund” for any potential grant spending overages.

We will have a budget for each window, but that does not mean that we need to adhere to it one hundred percent. The easy way of looking at this is:

- If we overspend **in a window**, we can take out the difference from the slush fund.
- If we underspend **in a window**, that surplus is added to the next window’s budget.
- If we underspend in **a year**, that surplus, including any leftover slush fund, is added to the next year’s allocation.
- We balance our books at the end of the year.
- We are flexible – the percentages are guidelines. Not all windows need to be the same. The slush fund can be increased or decreased. **We will fine tune things as we go.**

## Example

In the example below, we have an annual budget of \$100k. This breaks down to \$30k per window plus a slush fund of 10k.

- Winter Window budget - \$30k. We grant \$22k. That leaves us \$8k extra for the Spring Window. The slush fund is not used.
- The spring budget is \$38k. We grant \$40k. This means that we need to take \$2k from the slush fund, leaving us \$8k in the slush. Since we overspent, there is no uplift for the Autumn window.
- The autumn budget is \$30k. We spend \$25k. The extra fund gets added to the next window’s carryover. Since we have money left over in the slush fund, we add that the next year’s base budget amount. If the next year’s base budget remains at \$100k, we

would then have \$108k. We would allocate 30% of the \$108k base to each window (approx. \$33k base amount for \$99k) and a slush of  $\$108k - \$99k = \$9k$ .

	Winter Window	Spring Window	Autumn Window	Next Year's Winter Window
Base Finance	\$30k	\$30k	\$30k	30% of (budget + left over slush)
Carry Over	N/A	\$8k	\$0k	\$5k
Total Available	\$30k	\$38k	\$30k	30% of (budget + left over slush) + \$5k
Grants Allocated	\$22k	\$40k	\$25k	
Window Surplus	\$8k	$\$38k - \$40k = -\$2k$	$\$30k - \$25k = \$5k$	
Slush Fund	\$10k	$\$10k - \$2k = \$8k$	\$8k	

### Allocations and Streaming

In each window, we may want to decide, **and advertise**, the amount of available funds that would be allocated to different funding streams. I would not recommend that we allocate all 100% to specific streams, and that if we do select a stream, we select one or two streams at most. For example, I would state something like:

- We will allocate at least 40% of this window's budget to EDI projects.
- We will allocate at least 40% of this window budget to EDI projects and up to 20% on Publications/Events

(Note – the above are illustrative. We may or may not have such streams. We may only select one stream. We may select more than 2 streams).

Question – If we say “We will allocate at least 40% of our funds on Project A”, what happens if we do not get enough successful applications to make up 40% of the budget?



# Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation

**Jordan Baker – Chair, Special Committee**  
**John Glass – Chair, WRHF**

**Foundation Update**

**June 4, 2024**

# History, Background and Impact

- ▶ Incorporated Feb. 13, 1974. The first Heritage Foundation of its kind in Canada.
- ▶ Funded almost \$3M for cultural and heritage projects through a mandate of encouraging and supporting the heritage and culture of Waterloo Region
- ▶ Meeting a distinct need in our communities
- ▶ Building, Publication & Special Event categories
- ▶ Projects from \$100 to over \$100,000, through 400 grants awarded
- ▶ The Joseph Schneider Haus – National Historic Site
- ▶ Regional funding based on population (\$100k for years '20, '21)
- ▶ Regional funding paused in November, 2021
- ▶ Grant application pause January, 2022

# What We Have Undertaken: New Strategic Planning Activities

- ▶ What Needed to Change?
  - ▶ The need for greater visibility, and the need for equitable grant distribution with an eye towards impact and value to the Region
- ▶ Hired a consultant – The Centre for Community Based Research
- ▶ Evaluated our grant procedures to ensure we are following DEI and REDI practices as defined by region.
- ▶ The ultimate goal of identifying and engaging with non-traditional applicants for heritage funding and to verify that grants are distributed equitably.



# Consultant Findings & WRHF Actions

## ► Core Findings

- The need for more relationship building, expanding opportunities for not only funding, but engagement with heritage and culture
- The need for reflection and action plans around understanding who belongs and who is excluded when it comes to supporting heritage, and reframing granting processes to increase accessibility and equity

## ► Short Term Actions to open funding again

- A new definition of heritage as “what we receive from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Heritage can be cultural or natural, tangible or intangible, and can apply to all creations of the past that have acquired cultural significance with the passage of time”
- A new Equity Funding Stream
- A reworking of grant application windows, and greater visibility of grant opportunities for more people and organizations throughout the Region

# Next Steps

- ▶ Update website with new info & process
- ▶ Direct communication to groups who participated in the consultant's investigation and to other under-represented groups
- ▶ Open grant window (target Sept 15 – Oct. 31)
- ▶ Evaluate Nov. 1 – Dec. 31. Announce Jan. 2025
- ▶ Currently targeting \$100k (of \$110k in bank) over Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 windows.
- ▶ Request consideration of further Regional funding to continue beyond the summer of 2025

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# Waterloo Historical Society

## Newsletter

### MAY / JUNE 2024

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Marion Roes, Editor

### Public Meeting

All are welcome. There is no admission charge.

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

**Doors open at 6:30 pm; meeting at 7:30 pm**

**Victoria Park Pavilion**

**80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener**

**Early Aviation in Kitchener-Waterloo** by WHS director and local historian Rych Mills begins with lighter-than-air flights and then highlights the first-ever airplane appearance over Berlin. The presentation then moves on to a few First World War-connected flying visits. In the 1920s, several ex-military pilots began advocating for an airfield to be set up in Kitchener. That brings the story around to Fred Gillies and his role in establishing such a field in east end Kitchener. The story concludes with the building of an actual aerodrome on the edge of Waterloo at Lexington.

**Parking:** If the pavilion lot is full, there is more parking past the playground near the Iron Horse Trail.

**Passenger-Carrying  
Aeroplane Flights**

For the benefit of the many Kitchener people who were unable to avail themselves of a pleasant safe aeroplane flight during Old Home Week, a special service will be given here on

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5.	SUNDAY, SEPT. 6.	MONDAY, Sept. 7
<b>AERODROME</b> Frederick St. at City Limits, on A. L. Shantz' Farm.		
Approximately <b>15 MILE FLIGHTS</b> No stunting unless requested.		
Harold Smith of General Battery Service will be the Pilot in charge of the Aeroplane.		
<b>\$10.00</b> <b>JACK ELLIOT</b> <b>AIR SERVICE</b>		

*Kitchener Daily Record*  
advertisement September 4, 1925



An overdue whole-hearted "Thank you" to WHS volunteers all year and especially during National Volunteer Week, held April 14-20 - for their numerous contributions to publications, editing, meetings, exhibits, plaques, research, speakers, Board of Directors, Councilors, Book Table sales, photos, minutes, financials, archives, web site, social media, programs, drivers...

## Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

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A belated Happy New Year! A heartfelt thank you goes out to WHS members who joined us for the KPL Genealogy Fair on November 4, 2023 and for the team that exhibited at the Fair. We look forward to hosting our next fair in 2025!

We are pleased to have completed a community research project, funded by the Edna Staebler Legacy Fund, Waterloo Region Community Foundation, which identified marginalized communities in the federal censuses 1851-1931.

We are offering the ever-popular Bookbinding for Beginners program at Central Library on May 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Love heritage plants and gardens? Bob Wildfong, Horticultural Specialist for Doon Village will lead us on a visual tour of turn of the century gardens, practices, and plantings! Join us at Central on Wednesday, June 5, at 7 p.m.

Get help on digitizing your family treasures with our Show Me How to Digitize! program. Appointments are available Monday to Saturday.

To register for all programs – register online or call 519-743-0271, ext 212 or email [gsr@kpl.org](mailto:gsr@kpl.org).



**From Instagram and Facebook:** That's a wrap for Archives A to Z from Kitchener Public Library GSR! All credit and kudos go to Lauren for all of her delightful posts and the window display in the Grace Schmidt Room!

"Z" is for Zilliax. Henry Zilliax was the owner and proprietor of the Zilliax House Hotel on the north-west corner of Arthur and Church Streets in Elmira. In 1898, the hotel burned down after a lightning strike and had to be entirely rebuilt. Photo: WHF PH124, ca. 1899



### Recent donations to the WHS archives include:

- Ongoing accruals to F142 Ron Welker 2SLGBTQ+ Collection;
- Weichel family of Elmira information and photos;
- A panoramic photo of the third Shantz Reunion at Waterloo Park, dated July 3, 1935;
- A panoramic photograph of the Woolner Reunion at Victoria Park, Kitchener, dated July 1, 1940, video recordings of Breslau Homecomings, wall calendars from Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church and H. Schilling & Sons general store, Breslau;
- A copy of "The Taoist Pearl: the Life of a Chinese Convert";
- Poster titled "Rules and Regulations: Berlin Market", (n.d.); and
- Dreisinger, Lichty, and Wilken families' certificates and history, and Silverwood Dairies, Elmira information.

Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS Archivist  
Email [karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org](mailto:karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org)  
Tel: 519-743-0271, ext. 252



Waterloo Historical Society gratefully acknowledges that the Kitchener Public Library continues to keep and care for our collection and archives in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History at the Central Library.

## Condolences

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To the family of Ernie Ritz who died on March 13, 2024. Ernie was a WHS member since 1971, a past president and all-time supporter of WHS. Ernie's many contributions to the community are given in his obituary and Valerie Hill's "Lifetimes" column in *The Waterloo Regional Record*.

<https://obituaries.therecord.com/obituary/ernst-ernie-ritz-1089467136> and

[https://www.therecord.com/life/waterloo-region/ernie-ritz-had-a-wealth-of-local-historical-knowledge/article\\_9f825504-0edc-57bc-91aa-9ffe958a9c99.html](https://www.therecord.com/life/waterloo-region/ernie-ritz-had-a-wealth-of-local-historical-knowledge/article_9f825504-0edc-57bc-91aa-9ffe958a9c99.html)

## Congratulations to John English

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WHS member and distinguished Professor Emeritus John English has been named to the Order of Ontario. Dr. English was among 25 appointees named to the Order on January 1, 2024 by the Honourable Edith Dumond, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Chancellor of the Order of Ontario.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/news/distinguished-professor-emeritus-john-english-appointed>

## Wilmot Heritage Day

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Thank you to Heritage Wilmot for organizing a fun day on February 19. Left: Our Book Table sales were good, and many people enjoyed the photo display. Right: WHS volunteers Mary Anne Banks and Ray Ruddy are at the table. Warren Stauch (blue sweater) is talking with Ken Seiling, and other friends and fellow historians. Credit to Harold Russell and Heritage Wilmot.



## Board of Directors' News and Notes

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### Nominating Committee – John Glass, Lesley Webb, Debbie Kroetsch

Earlier this year, Marion Roes notified the Nominating Committee that she will not be standing for another term as director term and will step down as newsletter editor. One of the Society's newest members, Sophia Grande-Lawlor reached out to the Nominating Committee to inquire about a position on the board. Sophia's past work experience editing the Wellington County Economic Development newsletter made her the perfect candidate to assist and learn from Marion in producing the WHS newsletter for the remainder of the term. This brings up the opportunity for creating a Newsletter Committee for next year. Please reach out to a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in contributing to the newsletter

At the February 6 board meeting, Sophia was voted in as a director and in addition to working with the newsletter, joined the Programs Committee to help plan member meetings. To both tasks, Sophia brings a strong connection and interest in local history, with previous work experience at the Wellington County Museum & Archives and the Region of Waterloo Archives. The Nominating Committee is pleased to welcome Sophia to the board!

If you are interested in a position on the board or council speak to one of the following members of the Nominating Committee: Debbie Kroetch, John Glass, Lesley Webb

## The Victorian Classroom Project is ending

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From Margaret Dickson's letter to the editor, *Waterloo Region Record*, May 3, 2024.

This project was located at Suddaby Public School in Kitchener, and for 28 years has provided insight for today's young people into life as it was in the 19th century. The program embraced century-old classroom experiences. Students engaged in role playing and participated in spelling bees, learned about the times tables in arithmetic, discovered local history and more. Many people have been involved, including members of the Waterloo Historical Society and the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation. Retired teachers have donated their time, talent and experiences as they taught in the program. Others donated desks, books, artifacts and money. It is regrettable that the Waterloo Region District School Board has chosen to terminate the Victorian Classroom Project. Thanks to those who supported this vintage classroom. *Margaret Dickson Waterloo.* Margaret and Helen Koepke were the founders of the Project.

See also <https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/public-boards-victorian-era-classroom-transitioning-back-to-a-regular-classroom/article> May 8, 2024

Waterloo Historical Society fosters the recognition of our region's unique heritage, and diligently encourages its preservation by documenting the history of Waterloo Region, including the cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, along with the townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich.

## Who we are and how to reach us

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### Board of Directors

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Debbie Kroetsch  
Ray Ruddy  
David Emberly  
Glenn Thorpe  
Sophia Grande-Lawlor

**Councilors**  
Cambridge: Vacant  
Kitchener: Erin Applebee,  
Sandra Parks, Harold Russell  
Waterloo: Jane Britton  
North Dumfries Township:  
Kim Hopps, Irene Schmidt-Adeny  
Wellesley Township:  
Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt,  
Nancy Maitland  
Wilmot Township: Patty Clarke  
Woolwich Township: Diane Strickler

**Archives:** Karen Ball-Pyatt  
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for questions about the WHS  
archives and if you have items to  
donate.

**Book Table**  
To donate or to buy books, come to  
our meetings and / or see  
[www.whs.ca/booktable/](http://www.whs.ca/booktable/).

**Membership**  
Membership is from October 1 to  
September 30. See  
[whs.ca/membership](http://whs.ca/membership) forms and  
benefits at [whs.ca/membership](http://whs.ca/membership).

*Thank you for supporting WHS with  
your memberships, patronages and  
donations.*

**Newsletter**  
Comments, questions and  
submissions may be sent to the  
editor, Marion Roes.

*Thank you for help with and  
distribution of this issue to Karen  
Ball-Pyatt, Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt,  
Mary Anne Banks, Sophia Grande-  
Lawlor, rych mills, Margaret Dickson.*

We acknowledge that the land on which we meet are the lands traditionally used by the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabeg and Neutral peoples. We also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous people with whom we share this land today. We are all treaty people with a responsibility to honour all our relations.