

MINUTES
McKELLAR HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
September 4, 2013.

MEMBERS:

PRESENT - Ted Stroud, Tamara Black, Vivian Moore, John Moffat, Joyce Hopkins, Irva Stewart, Elaine Hotchkiss

REGRETS - Jean Kingston

I.) Moved by Joyce Hopkins, Seconded by Ted Stroud, that the Minutes of the June 5, 2013 meeting, be accepted. (13-17) Carried.

II.) No declarations of pecuniary interest were made.

III.) Visitors - Stephen Webb, Caroline Phillips

IV.)CORRESPONDENCE:

Email presented by Stephen Webb, which was received from Robert Dickson and contained photos of the Hurdville Mill.

Tamara circulated an email from the Clerk which contained a report from Stephen Webb on the options for Hemlock Church.

V.) REPORTS OF MEMBERS:

Joyce Hopkins made the following report;

“St. Stephen’s Anglican Church:

I contacted my cousin (Archivist for the Anglican Church) who talked with the Executive Officer of the Anglican Church (Harry Huskers of Sault Saint Marie) regarding St. Stephens. His reply was that the Anglican Church has “ no intrinsic interest in the property and is ready to transfer and the land office in Parry Sound should be contacted for the possible transfer to someone”.

I believe this needs to be looked into. St Stephen’s is a tremendous asset to the history of the Township and I recommend that the Historical Committee pursue this issue with possible future designation as a heritage site.

Heritage Room:

Supervised on one Saturday in July. 7 individuals visited and were very interested. 3 spent almost two hours in the room. John Junck mentioned he would donate a grain sweeper owned by his grandfather, a horse halter to stop horses from jumping the fence and a 1914 license plate. Carol Woods of

Broadbent may donate a St Stephen's Anglican Church Cookbook if we copy it as she still uses it.

Financial:

Spent \$106.50 for two ink cartridges (colour and B/ W) for signage and display posters for Heritage Room as per resolution 13-04 (authorize \$150 for misc. display material for Heritage Room), leaving \$ 43.50 for small shelves and attachments. Receipts given to the office.

RECORDED INTERVIEWS:

I have interviewed Burt Weir and Fern Harris and her sister Joyce. Stephen added photos and those will be made into dvd's. I have created a list of 30 persons to be interviewed (other names can be added). Several have been contacted and most wished the interview to be held after Labour Day. When talking with individuals about the project & setting up the dates to be interviewed, the discussions often lead to one or more stories being told. For example: John Junck mentioned his barn was moved from McKellar village and that his vegetable garden has been in the same place for 100 years. May Ball talked about Percy's involvement with the McKeown barn raising and that Percy dug out the basement of their house by hand.

MCDUGALL SCHOOL TRIP:

Vivian and I each gave a tour of ½ of the room. The students were extremely interested and asked many questions. A few pointed to their relatives in the photos. Highly successful- recommend a similar day be held again in 2014.

ACTIVE LIVING FAIR:

The display for the Historical Committee and Heritage Room was well-received- lots of interest. The free draw sent many to the Heritage Room. Definitely a good day and should be repeated.

LUMBER JACK MEMORIAL:

I am visiting SIKU by Siela Design on Whitefish Lake tomorrow to get an estimate for a memorial stone. The stone is natural Canadian granite, handcut and engraved by hand (a 7" by 9" Memorial with silhouette is \$90). The lumberjack memorial would be larger with perhaps a logging design and inscription, therefore would cost more. In talking with a few interested residents from Broadbent about the possibility of the memorial, it was well-received and was suggested we include residents (possibly through the Snow Bugs) in a special placement ceremony.

LIFESTYLE 50 AND EXPO:

Tues Sept 17, 10 am – 2pm, Parry Sound Curling Club. The Recreation Committee is having a booth in the Expo, so I contacted Barb Kerr's office for registration forms and asked if committees could go in one booth but it is

not possible. Fee is \$20. The heritage Room was displayed last year and did only get a few visitors but it was seen by many. It is an inexpensive method of advertising especially with the Doors Open coming up on Sept 28.

Recommend participation again this year. Will need a resolution to cover the \$20 cost of entry and volunteers to man the booth.

CHRISTMAS EVENT:

Several residents have recommended to me that we repeat an event similar to last year's. They felt it was a "great reminder of the days past" and a "wonderful day full of history and a sense of community" One stated she "probably would not have visited the Heritage Room if it wasn't for the Kitchen Tour and she's glad she did". As it was also financially successful, I recommend that the Historical Committee designate 2 or 3 members to come up with a proposal for our Oct meeting.

ELDERS BOOK AND BARN PROJECT:

On going. I spoke to a few more individuals, took more photos and handed out barn forms. I will have a Barn Project display in the Heritage Room for the Fall Fair

FALL FAIR:

I am available to supervise part of the time in the Heritage Room. Ed Ewing said he was selling tickets in the morning but may be able to help supervise in the room after that."

Ted Stroud made the following report;

"In looking in the "Historical Walking Tour" Booklet, I notice that there is an omission.

The description of the three houses in a photo showing Chris and Lila Junck's house (now occupied by Colleen Beatty), the home of Peter (E.) and Marion Harvey and the home currently owned by Ann and Steve Bradley omits some history. It is with the description of this third house where there is less detail that it deserves.

The current home of Ann and Steve Bradley was in the past owned by Mamie and Clarence Angst (there was at least one other owner between those two families . A small building (resembling a garage – and maybe it had been) was attached to the north side of the house and housed what may have been McKellar's first library. Joan and I lived across the road during the early '60s in what was Walter Scott's house and could see people coming and going at the library, I believe on Saturdays.

I think that this piece of history is all but lost. I think that there was a hiatus between Mamie's library and the current library and probably no continuity, however this other library did exist. You may be too young to remember it Viv, when you lived next door to Clarence Angst's.

There are two other historic sites in the village that I can think of at this point, which are:

- Jack Campbell's blacksmith shop.

I don't recall horses being shod there in my time, however Jack applied his skilled craft in making tools with his forge and anvil.

- Old Pete (Peter E.) Harvey had an ice house which was located about where Young Pete (Peter C.) Harvey is now living in what used to be the Grandview Lodge, the original location of which is described in Evelyn Watkins Moore's "McKellar memories".

There was a boat house on the river adjacent to the mill yard. I am not sure if that is the building that can be seen and appears to be located beside the mill yard. The boathouse collapsed under the weight of the snow load during either the winter of 1960-61 or 61-62. Joan and I rented Waters Scott's house (owned by a David Webster at the time) from October 1960 until sometime in the summer of 1962. We sat down at the kitchen table one morning, and the boathouse was laying flat

John Moffatt will remember these three historic sites and no doubt the collapse of the boat house. John will likely know who owned it. We should perhaps try to find photos of all of these places."

Stephen Webb reported that his last day will be in November, rather than in January.

VI) **MOTION and NOTICE OF MOTION:**

Moved by Joyce Hopkins, Seconded by Irva Stewart, that the McKellar Historical Committee participate in the Barb Kerr Lifestyle Expo on Tuesday, September 17th, at a cost of \$20. Carried. (13 - 18)

VII) **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The McKellar Historical Committee will keep the following items in mind as ongoing or future projects;

*website - Stephen continues to work on the websites for the Heritage Room and for the committee itself. He is combining these into one website.

www.mckellarhistory.weebly.com

*digitize photos/records - is ongoing with the new document camera.

*plaques - no one has been able to get the information from the past Intern on the plaque and the funding application.

*road names/landmarks history and origins - John Moffat is documenting these on the map he has been provided. He has been able to mark Parker's Flats.

*McKellar Elders Book - Joyce continues to work on this.

*Doors Open Ontario - September 28, 2013 - 10:00 - 4:00 in the Heritage Room. The Church will be opened for tours at this time as well. Visitors will be directed from the Heritage Room to visit the Church, with a copy of the Walking Tour Booklet in hand. There will be a large Market going on under the rink roof on this day as well. The committee needs volunteers to have the Heritage Room open that day. Joyce will be present 10:00 - 4:00. Elaine will attend as well on that day from 10:00 - 4:00.

*Barn binder - Joyce is working on this with community volunteers.

*Lumberjack Memorial - the committee to investigate options for a Memorial for St. Stephen's cemetery for the unknown lumberjacks who are buried there. Joyce is investigating the price of a small stone monument.

VIII) **NEW BUSINESS**

Fair Day - Joyce will open 10:00 - 12:00, Elaine and Vivian will do 12:00 - 1:00, Irva 1:00 - 2:00, Joyce can do 2:00 - 4:00.

Date of next meeting - to be moved to October 9, 2013.

Hemlock Church - Stephen has found a legacy funding opportunity which may be possible for the capital costs involved in repairing the Church. To qualify for the funding the Church would have to house artifacts. The timeline is very tight, as the Church would only qualify for this funding during 2013.

The committee could use it as a large item museum, and a rotating exhibit museum, as a sight on the driving tour, as well as for special historical events.

Intern job description - The committee felt that the following tasks should be included in the Intern job description;

-oversee the open hours of the Heritage Room and/or any future museums

- digitize Township records
- maintain committee website
- co-ordinate partnerships with other community groups
- oversee marketing of committee functions

Barb Kerr Seniors Expo - Committee has approved having a display at this event.

140 year celebration - possibly could be combined with the Christmas kitchen tour event.

IX) **TASKS TO BE COMPLETED:**

X) Moved by John Moffat, seconded by Joyce Hopkins, that the McKellar Historical Committee adjourn. (13-19)
Next meeting to be at 6:00p.m. on October 9, 2013 in the Council Chambers.