

Oxford Historical Society
Events & Public Meetings for 2017

Wednesday, January 25, 2017:

- meeting opened at 6:45, 17 people attended the meeting, Kathie introduced Mayor Trevor Birtch
- Mayor Birtch could not stay long so he gave a short synopsis of the Yukon conference that he attended with Jack & Jane Hedges
- The Mayor enjoyed the conference and while there took in a play ‘Dawson to Berlin’ and he had a commemorative advertisement from the play
- He was met by the Yukon Minister of Tourism for the conference and said that there is a real connection & deep appreciation for Woodstock and J. Boyle
- He went to go hiking and was told that the hiking trail was quite close, that you could walk there but found out that he needed a ride
- He hitched a lift with this lady who’s grandfather was part of the Oxford Rifles in WWI; her father in WWII signed up when he was underage & went to England where he worked as a mechanic until he became of age
- He then thanked the Society for preserving history
- Kathie then continued with the meeting by reading a poem by John Gruska, a former OxHS member, called Canada’s 150 (check title)
- Chris Packman read out the minutes of the last general meeting and asked that they be accepted, seconded by Deward, passed
- Kathie thanked Chris for all his efforts as secretary and helping with presentations, setting up meetings, AV, computers
- Elaine read the treasures report for Nov. & Dec., the financial report was audited by Richard Hamilton & Associates, they will be auditing the books every year and said that all is good with the books, Jack seconded the approval of the report, passed
- Kathie reviewed the current membership
- Kathie thanked Jack for his 40 years of membership with the Society, both as a board member and as a general member, Jack will no longer serve on the board
- Murray Coulter presented the nominations for the 2017 board:
President: *Kathie Richards*
Past President: *Jim Groulx*
Vice President: *Vacant*
Treasurer/Research: *Dr. Elaine Becker*
Secretary/Publicity/Webmaster/Newsletter: *Laura Centore*
Membership: *Judy Klages*
Computers/Member at Large: *Chris Packman*
Archives/Architecture: *Eleanor Gardhouse*
Museum Liaison: *Karen Houston*
Board Members at Large: *Jim Groulx, Don Wilson*
Deward Yates accepted the nominations and Jack Hedges seconded the motion
- Kathie presented information about a symposium being held in London on Feb. 25, Deward and Jack are willing to drive, Laura will email information about the event to the members

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- Jim Groulx then introduced Jack Hedges – Jack spoke on his and Jane’s trip to the Yukon Conference in May of 2016 to Whitehorse, they enjoyed it very much – 24 speakers in 3 days and local tours
- The conference was about people in remote areas and how they responded to WWI, Elaine provided an article about his talk for the newsletter

Wednesday, February 22, 2017:

- Kathie opened the meeting at 6:45pm, 17 people attended
- Kathie had visited John Gruska in Cedarview and he gave permission for his poem to be printed in the newsletter
- She also talked about people who had signed up for historic plaques in 2016 and showed some pictures of the homes
- There is more research to be done for the 2017 plaque program and anyone is welcome to help with that research
- Kathie introduced me, Laura and I gave a summary of last month's meeting and that a write-up will be in the next newsletter
- Elaine read the Treasurer's report, Kathie made a motion and it was passed by Kathie & Chris
- Judy Klages was introduced as our new executive board member in charge of memberships
- Karen then introduced Don Wilson
- Don presented a part of his collection of historic postcards, some of them going back to the 1890's, much discussion occurred with the postcards, the members enjoyed them quite a lot
- Don drove a city bus for 16 years and used to have garage sales to raise money for charity and they raised over \$16,000 selling postcards
- See my notes for more information on the postcards

Sunday, March 5, 2017:

- OxHS at the Recreation & Leisure Fair at Cowan Park in Woodstock from 1-4pm

Wednesday, March 29, 2017:

- Kathie opened the meeting at 6:48pm, 23 guests
- Kathie explained that this was an historic day because on this day in 1778 Captain James Cook landed on Nootka or Nutka; 1848 Niagara Falls stopped flowing for 30 minutes due to an ice jam; 1886 John Pemberton brewed his first batch of Brain Tonic which eventually became Coca Cola; 1918 Sam Walton, the founder of Walmart was born
- Elaine read out the Treasures report and mentioned that the auditor is now reviewing the books on an annual basis
- Kathie mentioned the Thank You dinner from the Executive, her and her husband Doug were taken out to dinner at Finkle St. Grill on Wed. March 15th
- April 10 Kathie will be speaking at VON on the early settlers of Woodstock
- May 25 WERC will be presenting at talk on the changing roles of women since 1867
- Kathie introduced Bob Strawhorn, who is originally from West Nissouri township and his interest in history stems from his mother. He has been a member since 2006 and for the last 6-7 years takes part in reenactments in Otterville
- Jim thanked him for his talk and will be providing an article for the newsletter
- Dundurn Castle and the Military Museum in Hamilton will be this year's outing on Jun 24th
- Next public meeting is April 26 and Susan Shepley will be speaking about Aimee McPherson

Wednesday, April 26, 2017:

- Kathie opened the meeting at 6:50pm, 29 guests and provided some fun facts for that day in history

1865 – Federal troops surrounded John Wilkes Booth & killed him

1898 – John Gierson, founder of the National Film Board of Canada was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland

1900 – Charles Richter (d. 1985) – born in Overpeck, Ohio, him and German born seismologist Beno Gutenberg co-founded the Richter Scale and wrote 2 textbooks which are still used today

1922 – Jeanne Sauve – first female Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, and first Governor General of Canada

- Kathie Richards had left the bank statement at home so was not able to provide a full Treasurer's Report, Elaine was away so she could not attend the meeting
- David Sheard gave a brief synopsis of his goal to save the Ingersoll National Railway Museum, now Via Rail
- He offered some suggestions for its use – restaurant, special events, rail museum
- Wants to make it into an historic site and preserve it
- See the three attached documents he provided on the topic
- Laura mentioned to the group the upcoming Grand Day Out event
- Chris Packman introduced Susan Sheply who presented on Aimee Semple McPherson, Jim thanked her, she has been made an honorary member

Wednesday, May 31, 2017:

- Information is not known as to the number of attendees, if the Treasurer's report was read and who opened and thanked the speaker, time the meeting started etc.
- Laura Centore was not able to attend the meeting as she was away, some of the usual information was not collected
- Murray Coulter presented a very interesting talk on the Fenian raids, there were some technical difficulties during the meeting but it worked out in the end
- There were some medals and pictures from that era available
- Eleanor Gardhouse provided a summary of the talk for the newsletter
- The upcoming Grand Day Out on June 24 was discussed regarding where to have brunch and the time to meet to leave for Dundurn Castle

Saturday, June 24, 2017:

- **Grand Day Out:** visit to Dundurn Castle and the Hamilton Military Museum, lunch beforehand at the Admiral Inn, 14 participants

Saturday, September 2, 2017:

- Pavlo in the Park event in Victoria Park
- The Society shared a booth with the Museum from 1-5pm
- Chris Packman sold 15 copies of Quizzical History
- 2 dinner tickets were sold
- Laura Centore & Karen Houston led tours of some of the buildings surrounding Victoria Park, there were close to 200 people in the tours throughout the day
- Thanks to the County the Courthouse and Old Jail were open to the public, about 400 people passed through each building
- Laura Centore developed brochures for self-guided tours and wrote up the script for the guided tours
- Many volunteers, from the Society and some other non—Society volunteers, staffed those two buildings and provided information about them
- Don Wilson demonstrated rope making
- Volunteers: Elaine Becker, Kathie Richards, Kyra McNamara, Ron Ludington, Bob Strawhorn & Rod Freeman (Court Services Officer)

Wednesday, September 20, 2017:

- Annual Joint Dinner with OGS Oxford Branch at South Gate Centre
- Drinks at 5:30, dinner at 6pm, speaker was Prof. Alan MacEachern
- Prof. MacEachern topic was: The Dominion of Nature: How Canadians Thought about the Environment at Confederation
- Kathie Richards opened the meeting, Mary Metcalf from the OGS Oxford Branch spoke, Elaine Becker blessed the meal
- After dinner Kathie Richards spoke and introduced Chris Packman and Quizzical history, Karen Houston then introduced Prof. MacEachern
- Prof. MacEachern gave a very interesting slide show presentation about the perception of Canada and its environment, what some of the politicians and public thought about the vastness of Canada, how Canada acquired its land; he had some wonderful maps depicting the land and information on the formation of national parks
- Chris Packman thanked him and presented him with a copy of Quizzical History
- One copy of Quizzical History was sold, 27 dinner tickets were sold
- Chris Packman wrote an email the following day to South Gate Centre thanking them for the meal

Wednesday, October 25, 2017:

- Meeting opened at 6:45pm by Kathie Richards, 18 members present
- Historical Events:
 - o Pablo Picasso born in 1881, Kathie talked about some of his life's highlights, he worked almost until his death in 1973
 - o Charge of the Light Brigade in 1854, the Battle of Balaclava during the Crimean War
- Laurel Beechey introduced by Chris Packman, given a copy of quizzical history and her honourium
- Laurel discussed Life in Tillsonburg in WWI

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Wednesday, November 29, 2017:

- Kathie Richards opened the meeting at 6:45pm, 20 members present
- Historical Events:
 - o 1798 – legislature of the Island of St. John votes to change its name to Prince Edward Island, PEI is the birthplace of Confederation but PEI did not join Canada until 1873
 - o 1916 – Founding of the National Research Council of Canada
- Jim Groulx mentioned upcoming elections, Laura Centore spoke about the next newsletter which hopes to be out before Christmas and that they are available positions on the executive
- Karen Houston introduced Kerrie Gill who's topic is: The Wiggley Wobbly History of Gelatin, on display were historic and recent jelly molds and some advertising from the Jell-o Brand
- Laura Centore thanked Kerrie