

Tuesday, January 16, 2018:

- Kathie Richards spoke at Cedarview Retirement Home in Woodstock
- John Gruszka gave a her a copy of two of his poems: Canada at War & Canada's 150th Anniversary, the anniversary poem will be published in the newsletter
- Jim Groulx & Chris Packman participated in a tribute to Joe Boyle at the Chalmers United Church in Kintore, the \$50 honourarium they received was donated to the Society

AGM - Wednesday, January 31, 2018:

- Meeting opened at 6:50pm by Kathie Richards, she announced that the annual membership fees are due: \$25 for single, \$30 for family
- Don MacPherson asked about Alexander (Sandy) Marr of Woodstock, a stone mason, who in 1883 went to Saskatoon and built a 2-Storey home which was designated as an historical building in 1982, another building of his - The Little Stone Schoolhouse is also designated and is part of the University of Saskatoon: the information for his questions came from an article in Canada History (formerly the Beaver)
- The Woodingford Lodge project, which Laura Centore, the County Archives and Erin Bragg a co-op student at the Archives) are participating in - the project is to have the public areas of Woodingford resemble more of known areas and businesses of Woodstock
- Elaine Becker read the Treasurer's report
- Judy gave a summary of the membership to date
- Murray Coulter read out the nominations for this year's executive:
 - o President – Kathie Richards
 - o Vice President – Vacant
 - o Secretary – Laura Centore
 - o Treasurer – Elaine Becker
 - o Membership – Judy Klages
 - o Archives/Architecture – Eleanor Gardhouse
 - o Communications & Media Co-ordinator – Laura Centore
 - o Past President & Member at Large – Jim Groulx
 - o Member at Large – Don Wilson
- Chris Packman proposed they be accepted as read, Jim seconded, passed by the members
- Jack Hedges had sent Dr. Elaine Becker's book: Defined Under Pressure for review by the OHS Bulletin
- The review was completed by Dr. Cynthia Comacchio and it is hoped that the review can be reprinted in the Spring Newsletter
- The speaker for the evening was to be Jack Hedges speaking on the Canada Company, but due to illness was unable to attend, Kathie Richards filled in for him
- Jim Groulx introduced Kathie and she presented her talk on Women in Oxford County
- Elaine Becker thanked her for the presentation

Sunday, March 4, 2018:

- The OxHS will have a booth at The Woodstock Recreation & Leisure Fair which is held at Cowan Park from 1-4pm
- Chris Packman & Don Wilson will be at the booth to answer questions

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

- Kathie Richards opened the meeting at 6:45pm, 18 members present
- Members were presented with options for the annual June outing: tour of Eldon house with tea afterwards, picnic style event at the Resource Centre, testers for the Museum's Scavenger Hunt, Royal Tea with the Museum and mini-topics for discussion
- Laura Centore will email the members with the options and ask for their feedback
- Dave Mackenzie's office emailed requesting information on the Old Stage Rd. and how it got its name, Elaine responded to the email by providing an article for them which was published in their Oxford Update Volume II, Issue I, Winter 2018 edition
- Members were informed about the Woodingford Lodge Project – they wish to have the lobby and public areas resemble parts of Woodstock, Laura Centore and Erin Bragg are assisting the County Archives with the research
- The Society's booth at the upcoming Recreation and Leisure Fair at Cowan Park on Sunday, March 4 from 1-4pm, will be staffed by Chris Packman and Don Wilson
- Chris Packman will be presenting Quizzical History at Learning Unlimited
- Kathie Richards will present Women of Oxford County on March 28 at Learning Unlimited
- Kathie Richards introduced the guest speaker – Bill Butt
- Bill Butt has been a member of the Society since the mid-eighties, was Vice President in 1987 to 1994, President from 1994-1997
- He taught at Western University, has written 5 plays and all of them have been produced locally
- Him and his wife Karen left Woodstock in 1998 to take up a position with the United Church, returned to Canada in 2011
- He has lived in Angola, Mozambique, Kenya, Japan
- Has participated in teaching programs using multi-media to educate local populations and in flood and relief programs
- He is an Honourary OxHS member, has been since 1997
- His topic for the evening was his play: Kai the Barbarian: Ghosts, Wars and Love in Taiwan; which documents the life of George Leslie MacKay (1844-1901)
- The Taiwanese government provided financial support for Bill's research and play into G.L. MacKay
- MacKay is known as the founder of Taiwan (originally called Formosa), and went there as a missionary through the Presbyterian church in 1871
- He worked with the locals and established many churches, schools, museums and Oxford College
- He taught a variety of subjects including the sciences, health care, music, theology, dentistry
- Numerous statues and monuments are erected in his honour
- He married a local woman, Tiu Chhang-miâ (Minnie), in Formosa and has grandchildren still living today

Oxford Historical Society
Events & Public Meetings for 2018

- Mackay left a very large legacy in Taiwan and with the Presbyterian Church, Woodstock has a monument to him in front of the Courthouse
- Elaine Becker thanked Bill for his talk

March 14, 2018

- Chris Packman spoke at Learning Unlimited on Quizzical History

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

- Kathie Richards opened the meeting at 6:45pm, 18 members present
- Kathie spoke about possible heritage tours with the Library, the Kai the Barbarian play now on in Embro, the WERC project to research former employees of Paquette's and Harvey Woods companies and that the OxHS would like to interview former female employees of those companies
- A discussion was held in regard to the June outing, with two members mentioning that they liked the scavenger hunt with dinner afterwards as this year's event
- Kathie introduced Elaine Cougler, author of the Loyalist Trilogy: The Loyalist's Wife, The Loyalist's Luck, The Loyalist's Legacy
- Elaine Cougler spoke about researching her family history, the Garner family and how this research turned into her novels and that she tries to make her books as historically accurate as possible, she also read from her latest book The Loyalist's Legacy
- Elaine Cougler mentioned the role of Governor Simcoe, the Butler's Rangers, General Isaac Brock, and the British Loyalists and how they helped to shape Upper Canada and the events leading to the War of 1812 and the 1837 Rebellion
- Elaine recommends these two books: Lawrence Hill's Book of Negroes and Charlotte Gray's Flint and Feather
- She said her inspiration to write came from a high school teacher named Charlie Toon, at W.C.I.
- Elaine is now writing a book about Dr. Ronald G. Calhoun from Thamesford, ON
- Dr. Calhoun was the organizer of the Terry Fox run called the Marathon of Hope and he also helped organize Jesse's Journey and the Journey For Lives, both of these events raised funds to fight cancer
- Elaine Becker thanked Elaine Cougler for her talk and presented her with the \$100 honourarium

- Kathie Richards spoke at Learning Unlimited about Remarkable Women in Oxford and received \$150 honourarium, she donated the honourarium to the Society

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

- Eleanor Gardhouse spoke in Kintore at the United Church about History in Stone (Graveyards) to the over 50 group. She received a free meal and a \$50 honourarium which she donated to her church

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

- Kathie Richards opened the meeting at 6:45pm, there were 22 guests
- Upcoming events were mentioned including the Scavenger Hunt for the Museum which Laura Centore mentioned in more detail
- The Woodstock Public Library and the Society will be leading shore historic walking tours between the WPL and Chateau La Motte on Saturday, July 14 & on Saturday, August 18, 2018; Jackie Thompson from the Library will provide more information
- Saturday, July 21, 2018 is the Art in Victoria Park and the Society will share a booth with the Museum and will once again lead mini-tours, hours of tours to be determined
- The Society needs speakers for 2019 and if any members know of someone to please contact the Executive
- Kathie mentioned the WERC project that this happening and is looking for women who worked at Paquette's and Harvey Woods to speak about their experience which will take place on Thursday, October 18, 2018 – Person's Day
- On Tuesday, April 24, 1928 according to the BNA women were not considered persons
- On Friday, October 18, 1929 the Privy Council of England recognized women as persons under the law in Canada, allowing them to be appointed to the Senate, this decision was a victory for the Famous Five (Emily Murphy, Irene Marryat Parlby, Nellie Mooney McClung, Louise Crummy McKinney, Henrietta Muir Edwards) which is why October 18 is commemorated as Persons Day in Canada
- In 1930 Mackenzie King appointed the first woman to the Senate – Cairine Reay Wilson
- In 1935 Bennet appointed Iva Campbell Fallis as the second female Senator
- In 2009 the Famous Five were granted posthumous senate appointments
- The speaker for tonight was Anne Innes who was one of the editors of the book: Ordinary to Extraordinary: 150 Stories as Unique as the Women Who Lived Them, a book published by the Women's Institute in honour of Canada's 150th, Laura Centore introduced her
- Anne gave a fabulous talk about the book and how it came about, she had two of the local WI members with her who read their stories: Bernice Marsland & Marilyn Herman
- Karen thanked her and gave her a card and a copy of Quizzical History

- Saturday, June 9, 2018 is Pat Prince's 90th birthday and her family is holding a reception for her in the Art Gallery, she was born in 1928

Wednesday, May 30, 2018:

- Kathie Richards opened the meeting at 6:45pm, 15 people in attendance
- Kathie asked if anyone was free to volunteer on Thursday mornings or afternoons at our office, she also mentioned some of the upcoming future events
- Kathie introduced our guest speaker, Mike McDonnell – Canadians in the US Civil War
- Elaine Becker thanked the speaker

Oxford Historical Society
Events & Public Meetings for 2018

Saturday, June 9, 2018:

- Grand Day Out event
- This year we were testers for Sleuthstock – a trivia quest event where participants have to follow clues and find the answers around downtown Woodstock
- We had 12 attendees
- Dinner afterwards at Finkle St. Bar & Grill

Saturday, July 14, 2018:

- Historic Buildings Tour & Tea
- A joint event with the Woodstock Public Library
- Tickets were \$10 each with proceeds going to the Society, maximum 20 participants
- Event ran from 2-4pm
- Tour began at the Museum and ended with tea at the Chateau la Motte
- Jackie Thompson & Murray Coulter led the tours
- Kathie Richards, Heather Cocchetto, and Don Wilson served tea

Saturday, July 21, 2018

- Art in Victoria Park event
- The Society had a booth set-up to sell books and as a meeting place for the tours
- The booth was open from 2-5:30pm
- Chris Packman, Karen Houston & Laura Centore set-up the booth
- Laura and Karen each conducted 3 tours of Courthouse Square, each tour was 20-30 minutes
- The tours were free and they had about 70 people in total for the tours
- Kathie Richards, Heather Cocchetto and Chris Packman sold books and answered questions
- Total book sales were \$211.00

Saturday, Aug 18, 2018:

- Impressive Homes Tour & Tea
- A joint event with the Woodstock Public Library
- Tickets were \$10 each with proceeds going to the Society, maximum 20 participants
- Event ran from 2-4pm
- Tour began at the Library and ended with tea at the Chateau la Motte
- Jackie Thompson, Laura Centore & Tom Thompson led the tours
- Kathie Richards, Vanessa (need last name) served tea

Wednesday, September 26, 2018:

- Annual Joint Dinner hosted by Ontario Genealogical Society, Woodstock Branch
- Held at Southgate Centre
- Speaker was Alan Campbell

Thursday, October 18, 2018:

- Oxford County Herstory: The Women of Harvey Woods and E.E. Paquette
- Joint presentation with the Women's Employment Resource Centre (WERC)
- Held at the Woodstock Museum, NHS
- 50 guests in attendance
- October 18 is officially known as Persons' Day, the day the British Privy Council declared that women are persons
- WERC provided refreshments

Saturday, November 24 & Sunday, November 25, 2018

- Booth at the Oxford Creates Art Expo
- Event organized by Oxford Creative Connections
- Held at Reeves Community Hall, Cowan Park, Woodstock ON
- Chris Packman and Jim Groulx managed the booth

Wednesday, November 28

- Stephen Smith presenting the publication Honouring Oxford: Memorials and Cenotaphs of the Great War, published by Liz Mayville and Oxford County Archives
- Kathie Richards opened the meeting at 6:45pm, 20 people in attendance

Stephen Smith:

- Attended Fanshawe College and Westervelt College
- Member of the Canadian Armed Forces – Supply Technician with the 31st Service Battalion in London
- Military Historian/Researcher – Freelance Military Historian since 2006
- Prepared and researched many educational displays for local schools and for the Great War Forum & Militaria show
- Assisted in co-ordinating 'the Memory Project' visit to the WPL in 2013
- Contributing military historian for the 'Music for Peace' project with the University of Guelph
- Previous - Red Cross First Aid Instructor, Technical Writer, Production Technician, Ranger with the ON Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
- Volunteer experienced includes – co-founder of Evening of Honour, 1st Vice President of the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 55 in Woodstock, has served other roles with the legion