



**Annual Report of the
Hastings County Historical Society
2024**

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Report of the President

Gary Nicoll

The Hastings County Historical Society has had another successful year in 2024. Our membership continues to grow as you will see in a later report. We had a sold out Bus Tour, the first since before Covid restrictions. In May we took a trip to Kingston and visited the Murney Martello Tower, and enjoyed custom tours conducted by members and staff of the Kingston Historical Society. We visited the Great Lakes Museum on the harbour next. In the afternoon we toured Barriefield Village and also the Kingston Mills Locks and Blockhouse area north of Kingston.

For 9 months of the year, we held our free Public Presentations at Maranatha in Belleville. In September at the public presentation, we had the privilege of presenting the Gerry Boyce Award to Lois Foster. Lois is very deserving of receiving this recognition for her decades of outstanding research into the historical buildings in Belleville, with special emphasis to her work on buildings East of the Moira. This year, we were able to receive the rights to the book we published in conjunction with Heritage Belleville, "Heritage Buildings East of the Moira River". We have been able to place a digital copy of the book online making it available to researchers and homeowners. A couple of our volunteers have been steadily working on digitizing and expanding our historical records of Heritage Buildings West of the Moira.

As a result of our involvement in the 150th Anniversary of the Belleville Cemetery, we organized the first annual Cemetery Tour. In September we revisited the Belleville Cemetery and had 40 people come out and spend 2 hours with our 10 actors. We highlighted the gravesites of WW1 veterans that died in the later years of the war after returning to Belleville and also the mass unmarked gravesite of victims of the Spanish Flu of 1918-1920. Other notable sites visited were those of Richard Arnott, J. B. Ives, Herbert Wrightmeyer, William Lott, L.N. Crozier, Charles Herchimer, the Latta family, Nicolas and Mary Mann and Adella and Judson Henderson. We are planning our 2nd annual tour at St. James Cemetery in September.

The Society was fortunate to be gifted a substantial donation of \$25,000 from Shirley Sutherland (Chisholm). This very generous gift will be used gradually for various special projects that help to promote our local history.

We also have worked hard to update our bylaws to follow the guidelines provided for Non For Profits in Ontario. In November, at a special meeting held in

conjunction with our public presentation, the new bylaws were voted on and accepted by the membership of the Society.

The Historical Society continues to publish its newsletter, the *Outlook* 9 months of the year. We want to express our thanks to Laurel Bishop and Donna Fano who have for more than a decade edited and assembled the newsletter. We would like to remind our members and readers that the *Outlook* is open to new material from any member. If you have been researching some aspect of local history or a particular event, why not write it up and share your research through the newsletter. The Society continued to grow in membership throughout 2023. Our finances continue to be relatively healthy, our cash on hand is down from last year because of the major expense of the new website, but this was expected.

We continue to need volunteers to assist with our programs. As skills change in digitized and computer/smartphone driven communications, we need the assistance of younger members who are more confident in the use of the newer technologies.

Treasurer's Report

The 2024 year was another good year for the Society thanks to the continuing support of the membership, the re-introduction of the bus tour and a very generous bequest from one of our long-time members. Our cash position at December 31 was \$28,488 compared to 2023 of \$27,296, plus an Investment Account from the bequest of \$25,238. This leaves the Society in a very healthy cash position going into 2025.

The Balance Sheet continues to show a strong position primarily because of the aforementioned Bank position but I should also note the Prepaids are higher this year because of a second printing of *Belleville* in the First World War and a reprint of the *Point Anne* book. Other than that, we have no liabilities of note – in fact we have HST still to be received from the Federal government in the amount of \$775.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenses (or Profit and Loss) shows an increase level of operations because of the above-noted bequest and our bus tour revenues. Total revenues are \$39,975 compared to 2022 of \$9,826. Much of this difference is the bequest of around \$25,000. Total expenses appear to be considerably lower but two expenditures in 2023, the website redesign and the plaque totaling \$14,007 account for much of the difference.

All other expenses are pretty much in line with prior years with exception of the bus tour expense for 2024.

The statement shows a net income for the year of \$25,853, most of which is attributable to the bequest noted above. We do not anticipate a repeat of this in 2025 but nevertheless will continue to closely monitor our expenses in relation to the funds coming into the Society.

Dan Atkinson FCPA

Treasurer

Membership Report

Amanda Hill

The table below summarizes the Society’s membership renewals for the most recent three years (figures correct at December 31, 2024). Note that Family and Senior Family memberships are counted as two people in this table.

Membership year	Number of members
Memberships already renewed for 2025	60
People with 2024 memberships	89
People with 2023 memberships	54
Life members	54
Total	257

The types of membership purchased in these years fall into the following categories:

Membership type	Number of memberships (2023-2025)
Corporate	2
Family	6
Individual	12

Organization	2
Senior	71
Senior Family	48
Total (including 54 Life members)	195

Nine new members were welcomed in 2024, with another nine new members so far for 2025.

Community Archives Report

Amanda Hill

2024 was our busiest year ever in the Community Archives, with more than 600 research queries answered and 125 new additions to the collections. Some of the larger groups of records received include the records of the Friends of Glanmore, 1973-2019, and materials collected by the Belleville General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association, 1841-2019.

Our digitization focus this year has been on taxation records: early assessment rolls from Madoc, Marmora and Lake, Rawdon, Stirling, Tyendinaga are now online. The digitization of the Stirling News Argus was another large project, with 1879 to 1973 now online and searchable at the Internet Archive.

Some statistics from 2024 (figures for 2023)

Visits to the archives	517 (436)
Items delivered to researchers from the vaults	233 (179)
Queries answered	633 (567)
Volunteer hours donated	2,300 (2,076)
Archival descriptions available online at http://discover.cabhc.ca	17,036 (16,532)
Items available at the Internet Archive	6,529 (5,789)
New accessions received	125 (121)
Talks presented	5 (3)
Images added to Flickr: http://flickr.com/cabhc	896 (596)

Views on Flickr	2,332,376 (2,120,482)
Facebook followers at facebook.com/CABHC	724 (719)
Bluesky followers at cabhc.bsky.social (from November 2024)	778

Programmes 2024

Jim Kennelly

The Programmes of the Society continued to be held at Maranatha Church on College Street in Belleville on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month. Our programmes continue to begin at 7:00 p.m.

January: The lives of three prominent famous residents of Hastings County were featured: Henry Corby,

Ellen Bilbrough and Dr. William Canniff by Richard Hughes, Patti Spice and Jim Kennelly. Dressed as their subjects, the presenters gave an engaging depiction of their lives.

February: Trevor Parsons presented a fascinating look at The Life and Times of Dr. Albert Faulkner, a prominent doctor, Medical Officer of Health and Minister of Health, who pioneered and advocated for changes that improved lives in Ontario.

March: What is happening with Glanmore National Historic Site was the focus of interest in March. Jennifer Lyons outlined how one of the crown jewels of Belleville is being kept vibrant.

April: If Lilacs Could Sing was a captivating presentation with a blend of short history talks on local happenings and people of Quinte followed by guitar and song by Steven Bruce Medd.

May: Our programme was a celebration of 100 Years of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Bill March gave us a frank and fascinating look at the development of the RCAF.

June: The Rise and (Almost) Fall of the Local Canning Industry was a delightful look at the development of the canning industry in the Quinte area. Keenan Sprague, the fifth generation of Sprague's in canning, helped us to understand the importance of the industry and how it came to be.

September: Jane Simpson spoke on her Huguenot Ancestors on the Bay of Quinte. Outlining the movement of the Giraud / Gerow family from France to New York and then to Upper Canada, she presented a thoughtful look at a family's travel through history.

October: A presentation, The Crown Jewel of the Belleville Sports Hall of Fame, by Dan Maloney, one of Belleville's Sport Hall of Fame's Directors was well-received. Special emphasis on the Belleville McFarland's Hockey Club with film and a personal commentary by Bruce Bell, son of the McFarland's goalie, G. Bell, provided an inside look at the team.

November: The hockey theme followed into November with a presentation loaded with colourful commentary and stories by Richard Hughes on Hockey Come to Belleville, based on his recent, well-researched book, Belleville Hockey Town – The Early Years 1865 – 1930.

The Outlook Newsletter

Editors: Laurel Bishop and Donna Fano

The Society's newsletter, Outlook, is now in its 43rd year, the first edition having been issued in February 1981, now over 300 issues. The Outlook is issued nine times each year in an eight-page format and is available both electronically and in paper format, as desired by the recipients. The Outlook is also supplied to every school in Hastings County to encourage interest in local history. It aims to provide the Society's members and friends with comprehensive reports on the Society's projects and news on coming events, particularly the Public Presentations at Maranatha and features monthly reviews of books available in our online bookstore.

In addition, and very importantly, the Outlook features three or four stories of local, historical interest each month. This tradition was carried on in 2024 with a wide range of stories, for example, the Earliest Known Potteries in Belleville, Life in the 1920s, Lumbering Days in Hastings County, the local canning industry, a counterfeiting caper, among many others.

The grammatical editing is handled by Laurel Bishop while the setup is carried out by Donna Fano. They are supported by a number of story writers and a team of folders and mailers who get the Outlook into the post each month.

Report for AGM 2024 Publications for Sale

Michelle Hutchison

Numerous local authors and historians have penned books describing the life and times of those who have gone before us in Hastings County. In an effort to share this rich history, the Hastings County Historical Society (HCHS) offers over 40 books for sale.

This collection of books may be viewed by shopping in person at our bookstore, located in the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County on the second floor of the Belleville Public Library. Several books are also displayed for purchase at the monthly Public Presentations at Maranatha Church. For those unable to visit the bookstore in person or who prefer the on-line shopping experience, the HCHS website offers another option to view the selection under the bookstore tab, with on-line payment available.

Arrangements can then be made for delivery to the purchaser. A small number of titles are also placed for sale at select local bookstores. We have recently acquired some gently used books and these will be offered for sale at a reasonable price. The Outlook newsletter, published nine times per year, features a brief overview of some of the interesting and informative books that are available. Book sales continue to be strong as efforts to promote local history continue.

