Welland Historical Society

September 16, 2013

Held at the Welland Historical Museum

Business meeting called to order at 6:40pm by President Gloria Terreberry. Chantal Julien, Secretary, in absentia. President recording minutes on Secretary’s behalf.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes passed to Board and Members for ascent.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer John Skinner, in absentia. President, Gloria Terreberry, delivering report. Over the summer, $5,000 from the Trillium grant has been dedicated to the Great Debate, as voted and ascended during WHS meetings in 2012. The Great Debate is a War of 1812 celebration within Niagara high schools. Students participated in the international, televised event, debating amongst themselves as to who was victorious during the War of 1812 – the British or the United States. Notre Dame was one of the high schools representing the City of Welland. As well, $2,000 from the Trillium grant has been spent on the cultivation of plants within Cooks Mills gardens, as voted and ascended during WHS meetings in 2012. This leaves $3,000 for the grant, which is being spent on arbour plaques within Cooks Mills, as voted and ascended during WHS meetings in 2012. The money for the plaques will be delivered to Kirkpatrick’s this week, leaving an amount of $642.40 in the WHS Community Account. The remaining $642.40 belongs to the WHS, and was not part of the Trillium grant.

Membership Report: We are seeking a Membership Chair for the Society. The position remains open until a Member is able to fill it. There have been a few interested; however, the Society is waiting for a commitment. During the WHS’s summer hiatus, John Skinner, Treasurer, experimented with options and designs for an official facebook community page. This has been under construction, as we consider options for promotion and communication. We had five new Members join since our last meeting. Discussions on how to increase Membership has been top priority, since the Society almost folded last year due to dwindling Members from the Community. Membership monies have been applied to the rent of our meeting hall at the Museum. Chantal Julien, Secretary, has the Society’s Membership roll and will be delivering it to the Board.

Program Coordinator: The description of a Program Coordinator now exists within our drafted Constitution, and the position is open for any Member who is interested in filling it.
Old Business:

- The new Constitution, which is in draft and posted on our website, has been presented to the Society by the President. Members perused the document, and have been encouraged to bring forward amendments to next meeting when we will vote on the Constitution’s ascent
- WHS is waiting on the paperwork for the Carnochan Award nominations from the OHS, a follow-up will be made on behalf of the Society
- The Society is grateful for the work of Jamie Lee Charette, who was the WHS Coordinator for the Canadian Headstone Project, and assisted Steve Fulton, the OGS Chair, with the Welland section of the project at Woodlawn Cemetery. Jamie has moved on to other projects within the city, and we extend our thanks for her contributions. There is still work to be done for the Project within the Region. If any Members are interested, please contact the WHS

New Business

- The Board and Members, being in favour of a summer hiatus from June through August, took the time to think of what direction the Society might be led; over the summer months, the Board also ensured Trillium grant obligations were met per Society mandate
- During the Society’s interim, an official WHS website was created: wellandhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com
- The Society also became registered with the Niagara Community Information Database, which gives access to promote information to the Community about the Society and volunteer opportunities relating to the history of Welland http://niagara.cioc.ca/record/NIA0895
- We have received emails from individuals interested in joining the Society and volunteering since the website became registered
- A new Member, Dr. Louis Albanese, has volunteered and been appointed to the position of Vice President for the Society. Members of the Society welcomed Dr. Albanese to the post
- Nora Reid, Executive Director of the Welland Historical Museum, gave the Society an update on the Cooks Mills gardens, and welcomed Members to attend the opening ceremonies on Saturday, October 19. Ms. Reid extended gratitude to the Society for their support of the Cooks Mills project, and for the assistance the project received from the Trillium grant
- Discussions were held on what the topic of the October meeting might be. Ms. Reid suggested a Halloween theme, perhaps relaying ghost tales about the Museum, and have NAPS discuss their investigation within the Museum. Another
suggestion was to have a representative from the Museum deliver a talk on the history of Cooks Mills and why it is significant to Welland history.

- The Board will be researching the options available to us for our next meeting, Monday, October 21, at 7pm. Once a speaker has been established, the Board will announce the event to the media. The next business meeting of the WHS will be held Monday, October 21, at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.