Welland Historical Society

November 18, 2013

Held at the Welland Historical Museum

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

Approval of Minutes: October meeting minutes passed to Board and Members for ascent. Edits noted and identified for amendment. Minutes passed and ascended with Amendment.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer John Skinner, in absentia. Vice President, Dr. Louis Albanese, delivering report. As mentioned at the last meeting, the Trillium Foundation grant has now been spent. The Vice President thanked all Members who worked hard to see the Society’s objectives being met with regards to this endeavour. The remaining money, which totals $642.54, is Society money.

The Society will be meeting with the bank in either December or January to put forward changes for the WHS community account. There will be a third signatory, as motioned and ascended previously by the WHS. The Society will also approach the Bank to provide permission to registered Board Members and Signatories so that they might be free to request balance updates and general queries regarding account funds – for example, whether a cheque has cleared or not. The President will meet with the Treasurer, Membership Chair and Past President / ex-officio Board member at the bank to put these changes into effect.

Updates to the WHS banking process were put to vote, motioned, and ascended by the WHS.

Membership Report: The Vice President reminded the Society that the position of Membership Chair was still available. The VP read the position as described within the WHS Constitution and requested if there might be a Member interested in fulfilling the position. Art Groom nominated Philip Curtis, P.Eng., for Membership Chair. Nora Reid seconded the nomination. Philip Curtis accepted the nomination. The Society voted, and Philip Curtis was elected to the Board as Membership Chair. Philip offered, as a Member of the Board, to prepare the November minutes for presentation at next meeting.

The VP discussed the official Welland Historical Society facebook page. It currently has 35 likes since creation. The President is in touch with Brock and Niagara College press, and they are supportive of promoting the Society. This will have a positive impact on new Members. The
President will be on hiatus during January-April of 2014, and plans to network and promote the Society within the community at this time. Networking and promotions will also muster new Members.

Chantal Julien, Secretary, has the Society’s Membership roll and has stated she will be delivering it to the Board. We are awaiting its delivery.

**Other positions available:** The VP read the descriptions of Program Coordinator and Correspondent to the Society, and reminded Members that these too remain open for any who are interested in filling them.

**Old Business:**

* The Constitution Draft will be voted upon for ascent during the December meeting. Any Members who have yet to see the draft can review it on the WHS website, amendment suggestions are welcomed:

http://wellandhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com/

* As mentioned last meeting, in 2014 the Welland Historical Museum will undergo renovations for roughly six months. The Society will need to relocate during this time. Suggestions for an alternative meeting venue have been: St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church (the WHS used to meet here prior to 2013), the Welland Public Library, and Central United Church. The Society agrees, it would be beneficial to meet someplace with local, historical significance; in this way, we can support local history through our rental expenditure.

**New Business:**

* As mentioned earlier, our biggest concern right now is Membership. We are striving to bring awareness to the Community about the Society. Contacting the press at Niagara College and Brock University may be our best avenues for drumming up support.

* A portrait of Richard Morewood was offered to the Welland Historical Society by Ms. Ann Teskey. The Museum has been notified, and has responded to Ms. Teskey positively. They are interested in acquiring the portrait as soon as their renovations have been completed. This is exciting news.

* Keith Inman, a local poet, has offered to perform a reading of his latest publication, An Unfinished War, 1812, to the Society in the New Year. We are excited about this upcoming reading, and will keep the Society posted.

* Discussion led to ideas for future interests and activities. These included the Morwood House located beside the United Church and built between 1870’s and 1890’s in two parts and in a
“Gingerbread” style. Other locations included: the band shell porch owned by Mrs. Creniack; the Rose House where Colonel Rose lived in 1920; and the Cooper Mansion. Mr. Cooper owned the Riverside Mills; and thoughts of a walking tour of downtown Welland.

* Newly elected Membership Chair, Philip Curtis, has created an online colour orthoimagery map of the Niagara Peninsula containing locations of historical sites, heritage sites, cemeteries, important war of 1812 sites, important locations of all Welland canals. Philip welcomes adding all WHS points of interest to the map; the map can also keep track of events in time.

* Philip Curtis has located a 27 page ledger sized document containing a very detailed account of the early history of Canada, which to a large extent was the settling of townships in Welland and Lincoln. This document will be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

* The annual Holiday luncheon is fast approaching. All Members are welcome. Please RSVP so reservations can be made. If the Society receives a low RSVP turnout, the event will be cancelled until next year. The Holiday luncheon will be held Monday, December 16, at 6:30pm at our usual location, Kimono’s Buffet on Niagara Street.

Announcements:

* The Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society is having a guest speaker Monday, Nov. 25/13 – Laura Ingersoll Secord – A Heroine and Her Family, by David F. Hemmings.

* St. Catharines Historical Society will be hosting their Show & Tell and Christmas Social Thursday, November 28, 2013 – Members will bring their artifacts, old photos and collectibles and spend up to 5 minutes telling about them. At the St. Catharines Museum. Doors open at 7pm. Brief Society meeting starts at 7:30pm with lecture to follow. Refreshments after lecture.

* The Ontario Genealogical Society of Niagara will be hosting their Christmas Social on Thursday, December 12th at 7pm. They meet at First Grantham United Church at 415 Linwell Road in St. Catharines.

Presentation: At 7:10pm, local collector and WHS past President Art Groom, gave a presentation the Society called, “Poppy Day Remembrances.” This was a Guest Speaker & Community Share session where all community members were welcome to bring in artifacts and share stories. Art Groom is a collector of Canadian medals, cap badges, shoulder flashes, metal titles & collar badges. One item of particular interest to the Society, was a framed document, which was located on the front of every home at the time, noting the number of residents in case of attack.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.