



**Township of Woolwich
Heritage Committee
Agenda**

February 8, 2023

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Video Conference - Internal

Chair: Councillor Bonnie Bryant

Access Details

Meeting Link

Meeting ID: 894 4250 8289

Passcode: 068142

Toll-Free: 855-703-8985

Pages

1. Land Acknowledgement

The land on which we meet has been here from time immemorial. People have inhabited southern Ontario for about 10,000 years and we acknowledge the Neutral people also called Attawandaron, Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee Peoples who lived here when settlers arrived and who share this land with us. May we together learn to care for and respect each other, our flora and fauna, and the land we inhabit together.

2. Call to Order

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1 January 18, 2023

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5. Ongoing Activities

6. New Business

6.1 West Montrose Covered Bridge Update

6.2 Ghost Community Map Viewer

6.2.1 Greenhouse Road Bridge Content Feedback

6.2.2 Draft Content

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6.3 Candidate Property - William Thomas (W.T.) Tutte House, West Montrose

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment

9. Next Meeting

March 8, 2023

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Township of Woolwich Heritage Committee Minutes

January 18, 2023
Virtual – Zoom Meeting
From 5:00 to 5:43 p.m.

Meeting Chair: Councillor Bonnie Bryant (Chair)
Attended: Colleen Willard-Holt (Co-Chair)
Hans Pottkamper
Karen Cummings*
Kim Hodgson*
Marg Drexler
Staff Present: David Gundrum, Planner
Robyn Koutrouliotis, Licensing Officer/Administrative Assistant
Regrets: Martin England

CALL TO ORDER at 5:07 P.M.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Bonnie Bryant read a land acknowledgement.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Hans Pottkamper
Seconded by Colleen Willard-Holt
That the minutes of November 9, 2022 be adopted as presented.

...Carried.

OUTSTANDING ACTIVITY LIST

Ghost Communities

The Committee discussed available resources for research on the Colbournsburg community.

Action: C. Willard-Holt will circulate a draft of the Ghost Community signage content for the Committee's feedback.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of 2023 Meeting Chair and Co-Chair

Moved by C. Willard-Holt
Seconded by Kim Hodgson

That the Township of Woolwich Heritage Committee appoint Councillor Bonnie Bryant as Committee Chair for the duration of the term.

...Carried.

Moved by K. Hodgson
Seconded by H. Pottkamper

That the Township of Woolwich Heritage Committee appoint Colleen Willard-Holt as Committee Co-Chair for the duration of the term.

...Carried.

2023 Heritage Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee will meet on the second Wednesday of every month.

2023 Committee Recruitment Process

Robyn Koutrouliotis, Licensing Officer/Administrative Assistant, provided an update on the recruitment process for the 2022 to 2026 term of Council.

2022 Bridge and Culvert Program

The Committee deferred this item to the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bill 23

The Committee discussed the impacts of Bill 23 on the heritage listing and designation process.

** Karen Cummings entered the meeting.*

Marg Drexler noted the priest at St. Boniface Church has not expressed concerns about attribute designation.

Action: M. Drexler will circulate St. Boniface School's designation by-law to the Committee.

Action: The Committee agreed to research priority candidate properties for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: The Committee requested David Gundrum, Planner, provide an update on the impacts of Bill 23 and provide an overview of the Township's heritage designation process and budget impacts at the next meeting.

** Kim Hodgson left the meeting.*

The Committee discussed candidate properties for designation.

Action: The Committee requested the following items be included for discussion at the next meeting: Candidate Property: William Thomas (W.T.) Tutte House, West Montrose; Greenhouse Road Bridge Content Feedback.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Co-Chair Willard-Holt
Seconded K. Cummings

That the meeting be adjourned.

...Carried.

Potential Ghost Communities (* = include; ? = maybe; x = omit) Please ignore the bolding in the names of communities; it's random.

?Name: Buehler's Corners

Description of ghost town:

Located in Woolwich Township at the junction of roads leading to St. Jacobs, Heidelberg, and Waterloo, Wagner's Corners was formerly known as Wakeford Corners and later Buehler's Corners (the latter after the family who had a property at the corner). It was an area settled by Pennsylvania-German Mennonites in the 1830s. Although there were a blacksmith shop and a sawmill to the west along the Heidelberg Road, there was no real settlement at the corners.



Mr. and Mrs. Abe Buehler at Wagner's Corners, 1912.
DHC Research Files.

*Name: Colbournesburg

Description of ghost town: The origins of the Queen's Bush Settlement can likely be traced to a group of black immigrants, who moved to Upper Canada in 1828. While Ohio was a free northern state, many whites opposed granting rights to blacks and some worried about the threat of economic competition from recently arrived freemen. In 1804, the state enacted oppressive **Black Laws (1804)**.

After two unsuccessful petitions for land to the Executive Council of Upper Canada, the Ohio group, led by **Paola Brown** and Charles Jackson, arrived at Crook's Tract, near Winterbourne. Prior to their arrival, the parcel changed hands a few times but remained undeveloped. Its current owner had trouble selling his plots, but was willing to sell to the new settlers.

1832's assessment rolls reveal a 34-person community in nine households. It included five families with a total of 18 children younger than 16 years (one had a child older than 16). Except for John Brown and his wife, all lived in Broken Front Concession 2, north of Cox's Creek. Holdings ranged from 70-150 acres (usually, 3 or 4 were cleared and planted) and were assessed between £11 and £33 (US\$2312 and US\$6936—see notes on conversion). The Browns' holdings were the highest-assessed at £63

(US\$13,242). They had 100 acres in Broken Front Concession 1, two milch cows, a team of oxen, and 26 acres planted in crops.

Within two years, most of the settlement, including Paola Brown, left for other areas in the province. Several families moved to the Queen's Bush, the southern periphery of unclaimed government land that lay 29 km (18 mi) north of the village of Waterloo and south of Lake Huron. Over time, settlers spread along a 13 by 21 km (8 by 12 mi) area on the boundary of modern-day Wellesley and Peel Townships (now in Waterloo and Wellington Regions), and established centres in Hawksville and Wallenstein.

xName: Crowsfoot Corners

Description of ghost town:

Located on the township line between Woolwich and Waterloo Townships, Crowsfoot Corners sat on a main north-south road though Breslau and Bloomingdale to Elora in Wellington County. At the township line, another road forked off north-west toward the village of Conestogo. This intersection was Crowsfoot Corners, mainly known as the site of Ebenezer Chapel, one of the earliest United Brethren churches in the county. The church was later relocated to Bloomingdale. Settlement Boundary is still recognized on many township and regional maps to this day.

*Name: Freiburg

Description of ghost town:

A crossroads hamlet just west of New Germany (Maryhill) in the former Waterloo Township, Freiburg ("free hill" in German) was at the junction of present-day St. Charles Street West and Shantz Station Road. Established around 1840, it was originally called Rumbach Corners after the first entrepreneur in the area, Ferdmand Rumbach. For a couple of years he carried stock of mercantile effects (needles, pins, and other odds and ends) in a large box strapped over his shoulders. He later owned a two-storey brown log hotel called the Temperance House, a store and an assembly hall on the north side of St. Charles St. W. A post office operated here from 1847-1852 (another source: from 1851 to 1883?? Third source postmaster beginning 1851) when it moved to New Germany. Joseph Hummel operated a limestone kiln and produced many of the bricks for the local houses. His brickyard was located in what is now the orchard on the Hummel farm at 210 St. Charles St. W. Freiburg gradually declined as New Germany grew larger.

(write up by Hans Pottkamper)

Main Industries: A hotel, store, assembly hall, post office, blacksmith shop, wagon-making shop, weaving mill, brewery and sawmill made up the commercial complement of the community. A brickyard and cider mill were also established on a farming operation near the settlement.

Notable Settlers: Ferdomamd Rumbach (peddler; hotel, store, assembly hall owner), Andrew Hauss (blacksmith), Joseph Hummel (farmer and brickyard owner), Ignatius Weiler (wagon-maker), Andrew Weiler (owner of weaving mill, brewery and sawmill), Jacob Weiler (cider mill operator).

xName: Glenchristie

Description of ghost town:

A small hamlet in the former Waterloo Township at the corner of present-day Kossuth Road and Hespeler Road, Glenchristie was built around a lime kiln. Although a branch of the Great Western Railway (later the Grand Trunk Railway) passed nearby, and it was close to the Speed River, these potential advantages did not impact on the size of the settlement, essentially a rural crossroads straddling the county line between Waterloo and Wellington Counties. From 1939, Glenchristie was a stop on the railway line from Galt to Guelph. A Glenchristie school is referred to in the Waterloo South District Jubilee Women's Institute history, possibly in Wellington County.

xName: Heidelberg Station

Description of ghost town:

Heidelberg Station was a flag stop on the Grand Trunk Railway line joining Waterloo to Elmira, built in 1891. It was situated just north of the Woolwich Township line, where the railway line crosses present-day King Street at the St. Jacobs Farmers' Markets. It was about 5 km. southeast of the village of Heidelberg.

*Name: Kossuth

Description of ghost town:

The settlement of Kossuth in Woolwich Township is usually said to have been named after Louis Kossuth, a nineteenth century Hungarian patriot who was widely acclaimed as a champion of liberty in Europe and abroad. However, Tremaine's 1861 map of Waterloo County indicates that a Mrs Kossuth owned two properties in the settlement, suggesting a more immediate source. Located a little to the north of Hespeler, along the road from Preston to Guelph, the hamlet sat at the present-day junction of Kossuth Road and Shantz Station Road. Its crossroads function was most important during the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway in the mid-1850s. Its hotel served teamsters hauling loads of limestone from the Speed River and other construction supplies. When railway building concluded, Kossuth lost significance but remained to serve the needs

of a large rural population. A distinctive industry was the manufacture of sulphur matches by the Zyrd family. The town also boasted a tavern, two grocers, a pottery, a post office, a hotel, a shoemaker, a saddler and a blacksmith. The post office closed in 1921 and by then the only remaining business was the shoemaker. A log school was established in 1842, replaced with a stone structure in the 1870s (also known as Reist's School and Waterloo Township S.S. No.16). Somewhat fittingly, the Kossuth school was purchased by the Hungarian Canadian Club when the school was closed in the 1960s. (Highlight=on twp interactive site (edited a bit); also photo of schoolhouse)

xName: New Jerusalem (also Jerusalem Corners)

Description of ghost town:

A locality in rural Woolwich Township south-east of Elmira, Jerusalem Corners was situated at the intersection of present-day Jerusalem Road and Scotch Line Road. It was also referred to as Jerusalem and the Jerusalem section.

Name: North Woolwich (also Sandytown)

?Description of ghost town:

Located at the junction of present-day Arthur Street North and Sandy Hills Road in Woolwich Township, North Woolwich was the location of a short-lived post office, secured for that area by William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Member of Parliament for Waterloo North in 1908; the post office closed in 1913. A Mennonite meetinghouse, a Baptist church and an Evangelical Association church (later United Church of Canada) were in the area from the 1850s. Nearby Sandytown, also a short-lived hamlet, supplied some amenities to residents of the North Woolwich area.

?Name: Riverbank

Description of ghost town:

One of the earliest schools in Waterloo County, Riverbank School was established in 1832 at the present-day junction of Riverbank Road and Fountain Street. In its early years, it was called the High Banks School, and later, Waterloo Township S.S. No. 15 school. A log structure was replaced by a frame building, and later by a stone schoolhouse around 1870. The school closed amid some controversy in 1960, and for a brief time was used as the headquarters of the Waterloo County Library.



Waterloo Township S.S. No. 15 Riverbank School, ca. 1970.
DHC X.961.034.001

?Name: Rosendale

Description of ghost town:

Rosendale was a cluster of dwellings on small lots situated near the intersection of Ebycrest Road and Bloomingdale Road. The hamlet furnished day labour for large farms and butchering operations in that area. A large creamery operation was centered at Rosendale for many years. Rosendale looked to Bridgeport for school, church, and business functions.

*Name: Shantz/Shantz Station

Description of ghost town:

Located in present-day Woolwich Township on Shantz Station Road near the intersection with Victoria Street North, the site was formerly two miles east of Breslau on the farm of Samuel Y. Shantz. Samuel, his wife Esther and their twelve children lived on the farm between 1846 and 1867. Shantz was laid out in 1855 The Grand Trunk Railway was built through the Shantz farm in 1856 but hopes for a railway station did not materialize. Also, plans for a village to be built alongside a proposed railway station (Shantz Station) never materialized. An early post office there was operated from 1859-1863. There was a hotel for a few years, a Lutheran church, and two stores, including Schilling's, which lasted many years. Three schoolhouses were successively in use, starting with log buildings in 1843 and 1853. A stone building followed in 1894, with a second room added in 1955. The schoolhouse closed in 1965 for general education classrooms, but it held special education classes until 1968 when the building was closed.

xName: Three Bridges

Description of ghost town:

A locality in Woolwich Township on the present-day Hawkesville Road and Three Bridges Road where the road passed over an islet in the Conestogo River. The Three Bridges School and a Mennonite meetinghouse were located here.



Three Bridges School, ca. 1925. DHC Research Files.

?Name: Weissenburg (also spelled Weissenberg, burgh)

Description of ghost town: Weissenburg (“white hill” in German) was located at the present-day crossroads of Line 86 and Sideroad 16. The population of Weissenburg was about 100 in 1910, and it had daily stage-coach service. Pioneer farmers and wagon drivers travelling between Woolwich Township and [Guelph](#) would stop at Weissenburg to water their horses and refresh themselves at one of the two hotels, or to visit the blacksmith shop.

xName: West Montrose Station

Description of ghost town:

The West Montrose area of Woolwich Township was connected to a line of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1906. The line ran east and west about half mile north of the village, passing through Elmira and Linwood on its way from Guelph to Goderich. The West Montrose Station was a shipping centre for agricultural produce.

Name: Zuber Corners (also Zuber’s Corners)

?Description of ghost town:

Located slightly to the east of West Montrose at the intersection of present-day Line 86 and Zuber Road (Road 23) in Woolwich Township. The Zuber family was one of the founders of New Germany in the 1830s. Zuber Corners and areas to its east was settled by Roman Catholics. It was the location of an inn/general store and a stone school built in 1874 to replace the one at West Montrose which was subjected to yearly flooding. The school remained open until 1967.