



**Township of Woolwich  
Heritage Committee  
Agenda**

**September 13, 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 May 10, 2023**

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**5. Work Plan Updates**

**6. New Business**

**6.1 Designation By-Laws**

**6.2 St. Boniface School Plaque Update**

**6.3 Annual Work Plan and Budget - Draft**

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Final version to be presented to Council at the October 24, 2023  
Committee of the Whole meeting.

6.4 Jacobstettel Guest House - 16 Isabella St; St. Jacobs

6.5 Review Research - Carnegie Elmira Library

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7. Items for the Next Meeting

8. Adjournment

9. Next Meeting

# Township of Woolwich Heritage Committee Minutes

May 10, 2023  
5:00 p.m. – 5:52 p.m.  
Video Conference  
Hosted in Council Chambers  
24 Church Street West, Elmira

Meeting Chair: Councillor Bonnie Bryant, Chair  
Attended: Colleen Willard-Holt, Co-Chair  
Hans Pottkamper  
Katy Boose  
Kim Hodgson\*  
Marg Drexler  
Staff Present: *Jenna Deboer, Economic Development and Tourism Officer\**  
Robyn Koutrouliotis, Licensing Officer/Administrative Assistant  
Regrets: Allison Gramlow  
Karen Cummings

## Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Bonnie Bryant read a land acknowledgement.

## Call to Order at 5:00 P.M.

## Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

## Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Hans Pottkamper

Seconded by Colleen Willard-Holt

That the minutes of April 12, 2023 be adopted as presented.

...Carried.

## New Business

### The Importance of Heritage as an Economic Driver

*\* Kim Hodgson entered the meeting.*

Jenna Deboer, Economic Development and Tourism Officer, outlined ways in which heritage considerations intersect with economic development and tourism initiatives, including preservation of natural landscapes, ways in which heritage designation can indirectly increase property values, and positive social impacts to the community as a whole. She provided an overview of various avenues to explore, including tying heritage properties into the Farm to Fork series; improving cycling and active transportation routes throughout the Township, possibly in collaboration with border municipalities; promoting the Ghost Community project via ExploreWR;

self-guided tours with heritage highlights along the routes; and the Township's upcoming Community Improvement Plan (CIP)

The Committee discussed ways to attract and retain visitors, including incorporating a heritage tour into the Doors Open and Taste of the Countryside events in September and promoting the Ghost Community project in October. Further discussion will occur at a later date.

**Action:** The Committee will contact J. Deboer for tourism-related input when they begin the self-guided heritage tour project.

J. Deboer provided a brief overview of the Township's filming permit process.

The Committee requested J. Deboer circulate heritage grant opportunities.

*\* J. Deboer left the meeting.*

### Heritage Awareness Initiative Proposal

The Committee discussed ways to increase awareness and foster heritage preservation in the community, including pairing heritage plaque installations with newspaper articles and coordinating on-site media presence. The Committee will discuss the feasibility of a heritage volunteer recognition program at a future meeting.

Chair Bryant noted the plaque installation for the West Montrose Covered Bridge has been delayed in light of the renovation.

**Action:** The Committee requested David Gundrum, Planner, provide a heritage designation plaque installation timeline update.

**Action:** The Committee requested Robyn Koutrouliotis, Licensing Officer/Administrative Assistant, determine the process for publishing newspaper articles as a Committee.

### Ontario Heritage Trust

K. Hodgson has reached out to a contact at the Ontario Heritage Trust for information on available supports.

### Site Visit: Former Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Winterbourne

The Committee discussed other local points of interest.

**Action:** K. Hodgson will reach out to the Committee offline to confirm a date for the site visit.

### **Work Plan Updates**

#### Elmira Library Designation

Katy Boose and C. Willard-Holt will collaborate on the Elmira Library designation project.

#### Greenhouse Road Bridge/Beitz Bridge – Draft Plaque Content

**Action:** Chair Bryant will contact the vendor for information on plaque size and cost.

#### St. Boniface Cemetery Heritage Designation

The Committee considered incorporating the St. Boniface Cemetery Restoration documentary into the designation report.

## **Items for the Next Agenda**

### Designation By-laws

The Committee will discuss the designation by-law drafting process at their next meeting.

### St. Boniface School Plaque Update

The Committee requested an update on the plaque installation.

## **Adjournment**

Moved by H. Pottkamper

Seconded K. Boose

That the meeting be adjourned.

...Carried.

DRAFT

# Heritage Committee Workplan 2022



	Phase 1 Activity & Outcomes Title	Phase 2 Activity & Outcomes Title	Phase 3 Activity & Outcomes Title	Phase 4 Activity & Outcomes Title	Column1
<b>Activities</b>	List of activities	List of activities	List of activities	List of activities	Budget
	Ghost Community Signage (design, locations)	Installation of Ghost Community signage			\$1,400
		Designation of Peel St Bridge			900
			Property Plaque Installations (4 existing designated)		800
				Designation of Elmira Library	900
					<b>4000</b>

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount (\$)</u>
Annual Heritage Budget	<b>\$4,000</b>
Ghost Community Signs (1 community in 2022 with 2 signs)	<b>\$1,400</b>
Property Plaque Installations (4 properties)	<b>\$800</b>
Property Designations (2 properties)	<b>\$1,800</b>

**Notes**

Annual Council budget allocation from 2021.

Cost provided by Region of Waterloo (~\$700 per sign). There are 8 communities total (approximately 20 signs). Total cost for all communities would be approx. \$14,000.

Cost based on historics (~\$200 per installation).

Combined cost for newspaper ad, plaque, misc. cost such as legal/survey. (~\$900 per designation).



## Carnegie Elmira Library

In April 1886, several Elmira men gathered to discuss forming an organization that would help bring education to the area. This group of men consisted of a newspaperman, a watchmaker, grocer, a hardware man, farmers, a wagonmaker and a furniture dealer. They brought their resources together - which consisted of \$36 and eight books. This was the beginning of the Germania Society, which would lead to the Elmira Public Library.

On January 24, 1888, townspeople met to establish a Mechanic's Institute. Such institutes were forerunners of public libraries in Ontario. This institute was a success and changed its name in 1895 to Elmira Public Library. In 1905, the village assumed responsibility for the library and took it under its realm. In 1888, the collection was transferred to the Mechanics' Institution (Bushell, 2011).

In 1910, the library had outgrown its reading rooms so the Board of Directors decided to reach out to the Carnegie Foundation for a grant to build a permanent library. It's important to note that at this time the village's population was 1,060 residents (Bushell, 2011).

On December 14, 1910, the reeve of the village of Elmira, George Klinck, received a letter from Ayr, Ontario, apparently based on their own experience with a Carnegie grant for their library:

Mr. Carnegie [*sic*] does not approve of two-storey buildings for small placed but a one-storey and basement he does not object to. Do not have very much ornamental work either on or in the building. Be sure you can complete the building with the grant you ask for, as Mr. Carnegie [*sic*] apparently does not like to be asked for supplementary grants. He told us plainly that none would be entertained...(Thompson, p. 6).

As stipulated by Carnegie, a site had been donated by A.J. Kimmel and the Elmira Council agreed to maintain the prospective building, whereupon the Carnegie Corporation donated \$7,000 for the design and construction. The grant was received on March 18, 1911.

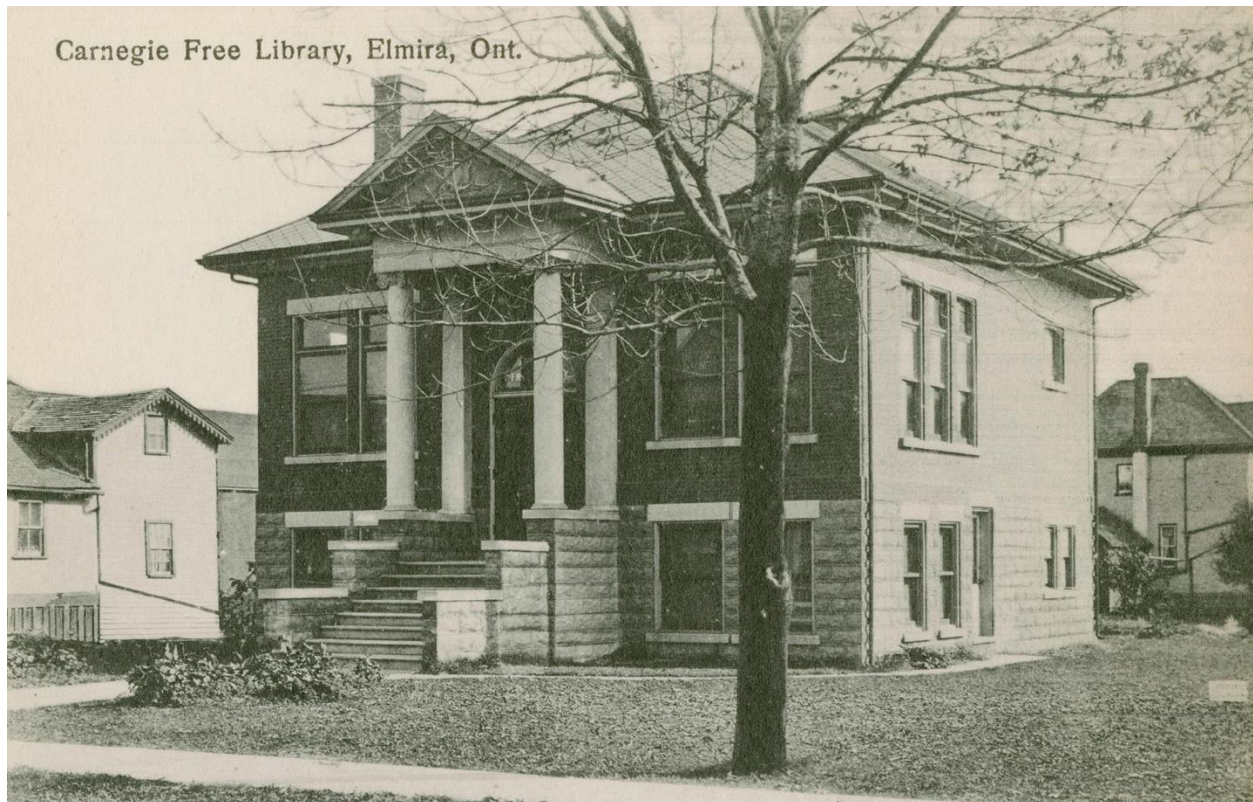
Architect W.A. Mahoney drew up plans for the library building in September 1912. Ornamental work on the exterior was limited to a "romanesque arch and semicircular transom over the main entrance, with a small classically-styled portico...[with] a triangular pediment with dentils and ionic columns" (Thompson, 1985, p. 5).

In just over a year, the library building was constructed and ready to be occupied by December 26, 1913. Today, Elmira's library is one of 125 Carnegie libraries in Canada.

Not quite two years after it was completed, on May 6, 1915, a fire seriously damaged part of the building and its contents. The repairs to the library cost \$2,300.

The library board and the Elmira Lions Club collaborated in 1963-64 to renovate and furnish the basement of the building as a children's department. Three years later, the library became a branch of the Waterloo County Library, and in 1973, it became part of the Waterloo Regional Library.

A longstanding goal was reached in 1976 when plans were drawn and funding obtained for an expansion of the library. The curved windows of the addition resemble the arched entrance of the original library. The addition left the original building as a complete entity, but tied the addition to the original building's design and construction. While construction commenced, a bookmobile lent by Kitchener Public Library housed about 5,000 books; it was parked behind Vince's Food Market. The expanded library building opened on April 19, 1978.



[Photo of Library in 1913](#)

References:

Bushell, G. (2011). *Carnegie libraries of Waterloo Region*.

<https://publish.uwo.ca/~gbushel/carnegielibrariesofwaterlooregion/waterlooregioncarnegielibraries/elmira.html>)

Kirkness, M.A. & Miller, B. (1988). *The Elmira library: A history-A heritage*.

Thompson, B. (1988, January). Legendary philanthropist Carnegie helped build early Elmira library. *Elmira Independent*.

Turpin, R. (1995, July 4). Grounds at Elmira library blossom; volunteers help make project grow. *Elmira Independent*.