



The Beledoon News

A newsletter reflecting activities of the "Von Ayres Cultural Centre"
Wallaceburg & District Historical Society, Wallaceburg & District Council for the Arts, Jeanne Gordon Hall
and Wallaceburg & District Museum
e-mail: museumpr@kent.net online: www.WallaceburgMuseum.ca January and February 2024



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A message from the Curator's corner

Kaelyn Gregory



I would like to wish all our readers a very happy new year! At the museum, January always represents a time of change for us, as we get to really focus on the planning of the year's events, as well as changes to displays in the museum after the holiday break.

I always begin looking forward to Valentine's Day this time of year. It is a time where we can all celebrate love in its many forms. Valentine's Day also has an interesting history within our society- why do we celebrate it every February?

It is hard to say for sure, but some historians believe that Valentine's Day has its origins in an Ancient Roman celebration called Lupercalia. Lupercalia was essentially the celebration of spring, growth, and new life. It was held from mid to late February every year. However, upon the rise of Christianity, Lupercalia was outlawed by Pope Gelasius I in the 5th century AD. It was replaced with Valentine's Day on February 14th. The replacement would be named for a famous Christian martyr, who was known for marrying persecuted couples in secret.

Valentine's Day was not celebrated as we know it today. In fact, it did not become a celebration of love until the 1500s, when the first Valentine cards were sent. Historians can only really speculate about the celebration of Valentine's Day prior to this, but most accounts involve a large feast symbolic of the mating season of birds and new life. During the 1500s, any cards and small tokens of love would only be handmade. It was also during this time that England made Valentine's Day an official holiday. The tradition of Valentine's Day was brought to Canada and the United States by settlers. By the 1700s, Valentine's Day printed cards and gifts would be commercially available. Over time, the holiday would evolve more and more into what we know it to be today: filled with heart shaped chocolate, flowers, Valentine's cards for your loved ones, and quality time with each other.



Do you like to bake?

We are looking for bakers for some of our fundraiser events.

If you'd like to get on our list please call Leesa at 519 627 8962, or Email: museumpr@kent.net



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Jeff A. Wesley B.A. (Hon.), LL.B

ON DISPLAY IN THE GALLERY

We are looking for YOU! Are you an artisan or artist? Would you like to display your items for a month. The Wallaceburg & District Museum has a beautiful art gallery waiting for you. This room is free, all we ask is for a donation. Please reach out to Leesa 519 627 8962 or email me at museumpr@kent.net



2024
January-Daryl Smith
February— Arts Council
March—
April—
May—Kids Art Show
June— Kids and Juried
July—Juried Art Show
August—Jim Mulgrew
September—
October—Haunted Museum
November—Christmas Market
December—Christmas Market



The Scrabble museum was robbed last night!

The curators are at a loss for words



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January when I was a kid was snow, snow, snow. We walked through lots of it to get to school. I really hated what I had to wear. Remember those long, cotton, lisle stockings that got all baggy? And those dumb garters that held them up!!

Then there was the wool, picky snow pants that smelled like your dog when snow soaked them. When we got to grade 8, we still wore them, but girls pulled them up under their skirts by then. One day my friend and I decided we would leave them on, during class, because it was embarrassing to lift your skirt to remove them. After class had started the teacher noticed that and told us to take them off. Ten times worse now because even though we tried to hide behind the pot belly, wood burning stove to remove them, the boys giggled as they took a peek.




You can now follow us on:

TikTok: @wallaceburgmuseum **Facebook: /wallaceburgmuseum**
Youtube: WallaceburgMuseum **Instagram : wallaceburgmuseum**



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The Beledoon News
Newsletter of the
Wallaceburg & District Historical
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*Please feel free to contribute to the next
Newsletter.*



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An editorial by Jim Mulgrew

Wallaceburg Early Mayors / Citizens

J. W. Steinhoff “Captain Steinhoff”

James Wynard Steinhoff was born in St. Thomas, Ontario on October 1, 1834 and spent his childhood primarily in Chatham, moving with his family to Wallaceburg in 1850.

-He was member of local industry and history in Wallaceburg, large land owner, and one of the most influential people of Wallaceburg’s early history.

-He began as a labourer in the saw mills of Wallaceburg’s lumber industry.

-He partook in marine ventures and construction of vessels; operated the “Dominion”, a large cargo and passenger vessel that was launched on Dominion Day in 1867.

-He had a passenger ship named after him, “J. W. Steinhoff”, which was destroyed in a fire on July 30, 1875.

-His home was the first brick home in Wallaceburg in 1858 called “Liberty Hall”.

-By 1887 Steinhoff left the marine industry and became involved in business and politics; his business ventures included Sydenham Glassworks, Steinhoff & Hinnegan Flax Mill, and Wallaceburg’s first industry, Steinhoff & Gordon Stave Mill.

-In 1896 he became the first mayor of Wallaceburg after its incorporation as a town; he also served as a councillor for several years, making many improvements to the town

-His philanthropy included a land donation near Quality Point that became Steinhoff Park; he also sponsored the war cenotaph that was placed in Library Park in 1921.

-He passed away in 1921 at age 87 just days after the cenotaph was unveiled.



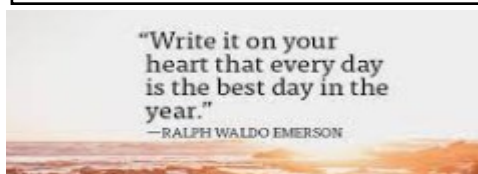
Beledoon News

Are you looking to expand advertising as a small or large business? Has your family and family name been here forever? Perhaps you would like to advertise in our Beledoon Newsletter. The newsletter gets published 6 times a year. Cost for year \$100 for a family, \$125 for a business. For more information please contact the Museum.

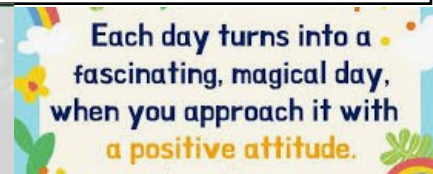
Wallaceburg History Trivia Questions

1. When was the current Wallaceburg Municipal Building Town Hall built ?
2. What was the name of the Mayor at this time ?
3. What year was the **first** Town Hall, Municipal Building built ?
4. What year was the Federal Building (Clock Tower) construction completed ?
5. What was the name of architect that designed The Federal Building ?

Answers on Page 8



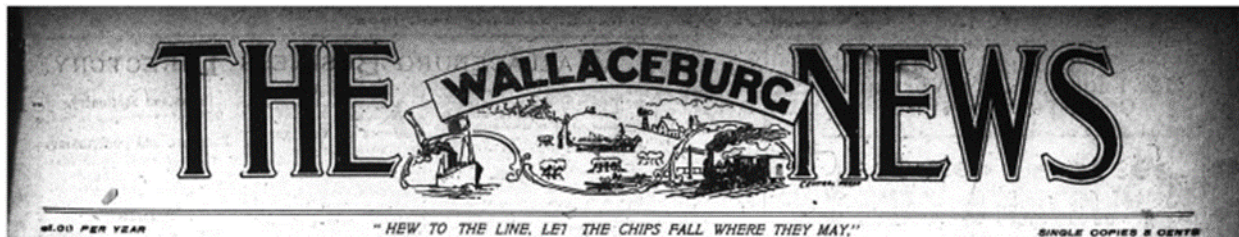
We don't have a great day, we make it a great day!



KEVIN CAVANAGH
FUNERAL DIRECTOR
409 NELSON ST.,



**Supports the
Historical Society**



December 26, 2023 Early Wallaceburg Societies, Part 2

Continuing with part 2 of the Early Wallaceburg Societies from the Wallaceburg News, of Dec. 13, 1899. The weekly paper had a space with the title "The Club Rooms" which listed all of the different societies that were active, giving name, lodge number, the meeting place and times and often the name of the "Head Master". This particular newspaper listed 17 such groups, each meeting once or twice a month.

Next on the list was;

Sydenham Valley, No. 120, I. O. O. F., meets in Oddfellow's Block, James St., every Friday night at 8 p. m., Visiting brothers always welcome. John Steer, N. G.: J. B. McDougall, R. S.: C. E. Nightingale, agent, I. O. R. A.

Phoenix Encampment, No. 57, I. O. O. F., meets in Oddfellows block, James St, every second and forth Tuesday in each month, at 7:30 p. m.. Visiting Brothers always welcome. Chester McGregor, N. G., F. Harris, R. S.

These were 2 lodges of the **Independent Order of Oddfellows** lodges that held meetings in the upper floors of the building now occupied by Glasstown Brewery on James St. The 3-storey building was built around 1888 by the I. O. O. F members and the upper 2 floors were used by the lodges for their activities and meetings.

C. M. B. A, meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday in the month. Thom. Forhan, Pres.; A. J. O'Flynn, Secretary.

This I believe was the "Catholic Mutual Benefit Association" which was a life and health insurance company that helped out its members in time of need.

A. O. U. W. No. 263, meets 2nd and 4th Thursday over Little's Hall. Thos. Forhan, W. M.; Chas. Swainson, Sec.

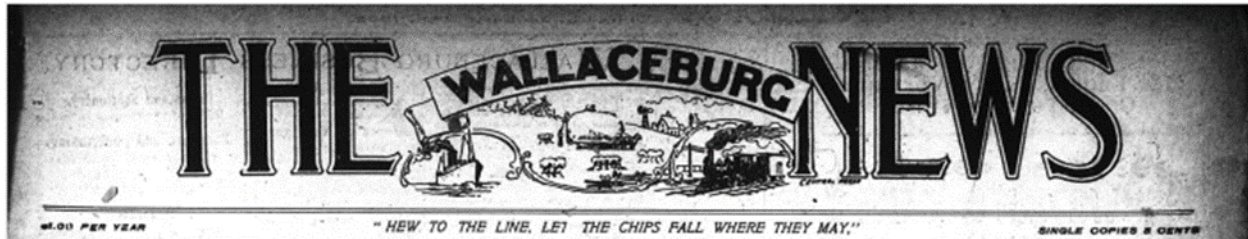
The "Ancient Order of United Workmen" was also a life and health insurance company that provided financial support in times of need to its members.

The Society of Chosen Friends, No. 330, meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday in each month at 8 o'clock. George Pierce, Chief Chancellor Commander; Wm. Wellman, Keeper of Records and Seals

Also known as Order of Chosen Friends, it established a sickness department and a child insurance department in later years. Members would receive financial help in times of sickness.

Knights of Pythias, Rokby Lodge, No. 9, meets every Thursday night in Little's Hall. John S. Chubb, Chancellor Commander; Wm. Wellman, keeper of Records and Seals.

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Continued, December 26, 2023 Early Wallaceburg Societies, Part 2

This is a Fraternal Organization and Secret Society based on the legend of Danon & Pythias. It provided aid to victims of national or sectional disasters and helped the aged and underprivileged.

Sons of England Benevolent Society, meets every second and forth Tuesday of every month in Orange Young Britons' Hall. Thos. Harrison, Sr., President; R. M. Southgate, secretary.

A Protestant Fraternal organization whose cause included religious freedom and Democracy.

Royal Templars of Temperance, Willard Council No. 182, meets in Stevens' Hall every Tuesday Evening. M. Cameron S. C.; T. Harrison Jr., R. S.

This group was dedicated to the prohibition of alcohol, as was the WTCU and their meetings took place in the same hall but on different nights.

Wallaceburg Hive No. 324 of the Lady Maccabees, will hold their regular reviews on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evening of each month in Martin's Hall at 8 p.m.. Lady Margery Quennell, Commander, Harriet Sherwood, Record Keeper.


The Ladies of the Maccabee's is the female order of the Knights of the Maccabees. This group was one of many societies that supplied low-cost insurance and other benefits that helped with final expenses.

As you can see, many of these societies were part of a larger national or international association that were dedicated to helping out the poor, ill or dying members of the organization, either through Insurance or donations. Members would often start at the bottom tiers of the organization and would need to pass certain tests to move up in status. Most or all would collect dues from the members and held secretive and sometimes elaborate ceremonies in full regalia, following strict guidelines set out by the parent order. There are still some of these groups that have remained active throughout the years and evidence of other groups long gone can still be seen in some of the older buildings in town.

For more information on any of the above clubs, articles can be found on Wikipedia or check the local Museum.

By Henry Van Haren

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Yesterdays by Myrna Jewell

February Flashbacks -Toy Pistol Heists, Royalty, and Pink Sticks

Trawling through the archives, I came across the "Flashback" column from the Mann Historical Files dated February 12, 1992. The report was chronicling news as old as 60 years old at the time. I did the math and figured out that the sixty-year-old news is now 92 years old.

I know what you are thinking.....Scary....!!

92 years Ago: (1932) Dominion Bakeries announced they would discontinue its bakery in Wallaceburg, making it in one location and delivering to Chatham and Wallaceburg by truck.

It is hard to believe that companies started to 'centralise' their production nearly 100 years ago.

82 years Ago: (1942) Armed with only a small toy pistol, unknown young man, hatless and speaking with a foreign accent, attempted to hold up the office of the Hawken Milling Company in Wallaceburg. According to the Wallaceburg news story, "the young man pointed the toy pistol at Miss Lillian Hawken and said, 'come on give me the money.' And Miss Hawkin, quite unperturbed, retorted, 'Go on, get out of here.' The would-be hold-up artist, evidently not used to tactics of the trade, immediately ran outside the building. The subsequent search for the wanted man proved fruitless." This may have gone down a little differently had it happened now!



72 years Ago: (1952) A day of mourning was declared in Wallaceburg, and a civic Service in Memoriam was held at Wallaceburg High School for King George VI, who passed away. The Wallaceburg News announcement read: "All loyal citizens are requested to be present and take part in paying our respects to the memory of the good and beloved King."

George VI reigned for only fifteen years before he died of cancer. His successor was his eldest daughter, Queen Elizabeth II, who was crowned after the period of national mourning. She reigned for 70 years and died in 2022 at the age of 96.

52 Years Ago: (1972) The Wallaceburg Hornets 'won their first Lipstick title in the "B" division. The Hornets' trek to the championship was capped by a 5-4 come-from-behind victory in the final game over the Oshawa Scugog Cleaners (interesting name). The Hornets scored two goals in the final 48 seconds of play to win the title.

1,203 fans viewed the game.'

I did a little research and found out just how important Wallaceburg is for Ladies hockey in Canada. One notable team member who played that winning game was Marian Coveny who was captain of Canada's first national women's hockey team.

Ladies hockey Tournaments began when resident Grace Small requested ice time for teenage girls from arena manager Harold Ribson. Gus Lalonde and Doug Myers agreed to coach.

In 1967, the Hornets hosted 16 women's hockey teams from Michigan to Ontario in the Ladies' North American Hockey Championship Tournament, known as the Lipstick Tournament. This marked the re-emergence of women's competitive hockey, which had declined since the 1930s.

Wallaceburg History Trivia Answers:

1. Sod turning took place Dec. 27, 1957. Opening ceremonies Nov. 13, 1958.
2. J.L. (Jack) Thompson.
3. 1867.
4. 1935.
5. George Whale.



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Sundays Closed

Yesterdays by Myrna Jewell

Continued February Flashbacks -Toy Pistol Heists, Royalty, and Pink Sticks



Jack Adams, General Manager of the Detroit Red Wings, attended the event, and Ribson persuaded a television crew from Hockey Night In Canada to record some of the events. The final game between Don Mill's Satan's Angels and the Humber-side Dairy Queens was won by the Dairy Queens, with the winning goal scored by Katherine "Cookie" Cartwright, who was a crucial player in reinstating women's hockey. Jack Lacey of Wally Enterprises provided trophies, the championship shield, and custom-made pink hockey sticks.

The Jaycees took over the Lipstick Tournament in 1968. The event grew; by 1975, 4,500 fans attended the games, with 21 teams participating.

The Lipstick Tournament was played in Wallaceburg until 1993 and then revived in 2006 by Lynn Vanderveen.

And...what seems to be not THAT long ago.....



Are you or some of your friends looking for some old-fashioned fun and socializing? Get your daubers ready because we're calling your number so you're able to call BINGO. Guests will be having a blast with different kinds of wins including traditional lines, corners, multiple patterns, and more. All on 3 card sheets in a variety of colours, which include 10 games. If you find the big BINGOs are a little too fast, come on out and give our BINGO a try.

Thursdays – Wallaceburg Museum upstairs in the Jeanne Gordon

Hall 1:30pm to 3:30pm

\$8.00 per book/10 Games

Proceeds go towards prizes.

BORN IN JANUARY?

YOU'RE...

- 1.) CREATIVE
- 2.) PROBLEM SOLVERS
- 3.) GOAL DRIVEN
- 4.) CHARISMATIC
- 5.) GREAT WITH IDEAS
- 6.) STRONG AND INDEPENDENT
- 7.) NOT EXPRESSIVE WITH FEELINGS
- 8.) IMMUNE TO STUPID REMARKS
- 9.) DOING WEIRD THINGS WHEN BORED
- 10.) BORN LEADERS
- 11.) GOOD AT HIDING
- 12.) OUTGOING AND LOVES TO PARTY

A YEAR Older
AND STILL FIRING
ON ALL CYLINDERS...

BORN IN FEBRUARY?

YOU'RE...

- 1.) LESS IRRITABLE
- 2.) BIRTHSTONE IS AMETHYST
- 3.) EXTREMELY HONEST
- 4.) VERY MYSTERIOUS
- 5.) INNOVATIVE
- 6.) UNIQUE
- 7.) DETERMINED
- 8.) LOYAL
- 9.) GENEROUS
- 10.) STRONG
- 11.) DEVOTED
- 12.) ENJOYING YOUR LIFE

DUCHENE PAINT

Accent Alley

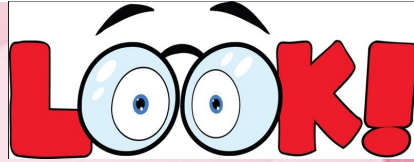
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Wed	8:30 - 5:30
Fri	8:30 - 6:00
Sat	9:00 - 1:00



What's going on at the Wallaceburg & District Museum

Wallaceburg & District Museum
Presents an

Easter Cookie Exchange

Saturday, March 23rd, 2024,
Looking for participants for this event:

- Free Event
- Exchange starts at 10 am
- Every person will bring cookies or squares
- You **MUST** register, so we know how many cookies or squares we are to bake

To register or if you have any questions
please call Leesa at 519 627 8962, or
email museumpr@kent.net



Make A Difference
Volunteer



March into Spring Giant Indoor Vendors Sale

8am to 1pm

Saturday, March 23rd, 2024

Crafts, Antiques, Collectibles, Household Items,
Baby Items, Jewellery, Bake Table, Raffles and
so much more....

Please donate your gently used
items to benefit the Museum

Wallaceburg & District Museum

505 King St., Wallaceburg, Ontario

In the Jeanne Gordon Hall above the Museum

For more information please call Leesa 519 627 8962, email museumpr@kent.net



The Wallaceburg & District Museum Presents

A High Tea Luncheon

Saturday, March 30th, 2024

12:00pm to 2:00pm

\$20.00 per person

Wear your
Easter
Bonnet.
Bring a
Friend.



Space is limited. RSVP 519-627-8962, to reserve your spot.

**VENDORS
WANTED!**
For our Giant Indoor Vendor Sale