



# 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](mailto:museumpr@kent.net) online: [www.WallaceburgMuseum.ca](http://www.WallaceburgMuseum.ca) March and April 2024



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**A message from the Curator's corner**

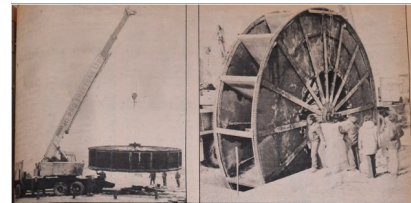
**Kaelyn Gregory**



It is looking like we can start to enjoy some spring weather soon, and here at the museum we are looking forward to getting back out into our parkette where we can host outdoor events and tours, right next to the river. Our little parkette has a very interesting history that I thought I could share in preparation for another beautiful summer. The Parkette was first established in 1974 by Crawford Langstaff, which is where it gets the name of the Crawford Langstaff Parkette. It was established as an agricultural park, featuring antique farm equipment from around the area. What is interesting about this date is that we did not actually have the museum on site. Wallaceburg Hydro was still utilizing the building as their hall. The building was not a museum until a decade later, in 1984. It is almost like it was completely meant to be. The pictures I have added are from the day our Rose Pumping Waterwheel was installed in the parkette. It lays in a large "cement coffin" in the middle of the parkette, and is still a very recognizable symbol of the museum today.

But did you know what the function of the parkette was originally? All before Hydro Halls, Agricultural Parks and Museums? It was a lawn bowling club. From about 1920-1945, Wallaceburg's Lawn Bowling Club inhabited the parkette space. Come check out the museum's current display on our own history, and you can see images of lawn bowlers enjoying themselves in the parkette, as well as photos from the day they moved the clubhouse closer to Steinhoff Park, their next location. How do you move an entire building across the river? Float it down! It is truly some incredible stuff.

Today some of the key artifacts on display in the parkette include: the Rose Pumping Scheme Waterwheel, a McCormick-Deering 10-20 Tractor, a Beaver Gang Walking Plow, a Massey-Harris Binder,



Do you like to bake? Do you have an hour to spare?

We are looking for volunteers for our events.

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



Wednesday, March 6th, 7-9pm  
Wallaceburg & District Museum  
505 King Street, Wallaceburg

Exhibit can be seen the month of March, 2024  
Gallery and Museum Hours  
Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm



Photography  
Exhibition  
of



**"FLORA  
and FUNGI"**

Wildflowers and Mushrooms, photographed by  
**Herman Giethoorn**

in the art gallery of the  
**Wallaceburg and District Museum**  
505 King Street, Wallaceburg, Ontario



Opening Reception  
Friday, April 5, 2024  
2 - 4 p.m.  
Meet the Photographer  
Free Entry and  
Refreshments



Gallery and Museum  
Opening Hours  
Tuesday - Saturday  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Prints will be on display  
Tuesday, April 2  
until  
Tuesday, April 30



**Why don't we ever see ghosts at the museum? Because they don't make the cut for the "historic" category!**



**B I N G O**  
HOMETOWN

1416 DUFFERIN AVE., WALLACEBURG, N8A 2W5  
DAILY AT 7:00 P.M. 519-627-1346

**Need**  
We can Help  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**Hours?**  
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**GRANNY'S  
CORNER**  
"On the Lighter Side"

Is this crazy weather scary or what?

Way back in the 40's it was customary to go on our frozen rivers. For a stretch of weeks cars drove across the St. Clair River at all the crossings. Early in the century ice boat racing was a daring pas-time.

When I think of when we drove across the deep and swift current Snye my stomach flips. It would be dark when we returned and who knew how many cracks had formed or layers of ice shifted since having crossed in the daylight a couple of hours before. I get more grey hair just thinking about it.



Two fish in a tank, one looks at the other and says, "How do you drive this thing?"



**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 Society Inc.  
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Henry Van Haren and Myrna Jewell

*Please feel free to contribute to the next  
Newsletter.*



**THE JERRY BENN FAMILY  
IS A  
PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE BELEDOON NEWSLETTER**

## An editorial by Jim Mulgrew

### HUDSON BAY ICE STARTS BRASS.

Where did the Wallaceburg branch of the Burgess family have its start ?

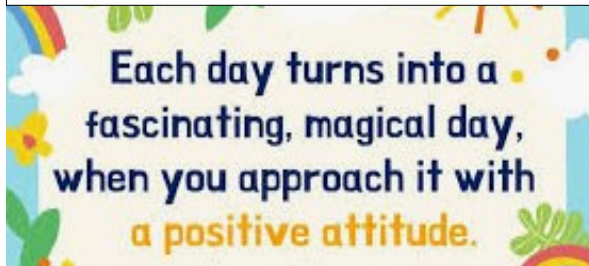
In 1820 George Burgess, a native of The Orkney Islands was a factor at The Hudson Bay Company post, York Factory, which was situated at the mouth of the Nelson River. Due to the ice conditions in Hudson Bay that year his 10 year old son, Tom, was unable to return to school in Scotland. Through the Selkirk settlers, George heard of Selkirk's Wallaceburg Baldoon Settlement and sent Tom with a group of fur traders on a long canoe trip south. Somewhere en route circumstances prevented Tom from going to school and he decided to stay with the friendly settlers in Baldoon (Wallaceburg). George joined his son and stayed there until his death in 1847.

Tom's son Thomas Wesley Burgess grew up in the Baldoon area and became a ship builder and a logger. By 1885 he had opened a grocery store at the corner of James and Nelson Streets. Ten years later his son Herbert Wesley had taken over the operation of the store but really wanted more scope for his creative talents.

### Wallaceburg History Trivia

1. What year did the Greenmelk Co. (division of Quaker Oat) begin operation in Wallaceburg?
2. What year did the first large shipment of glass leave The Sydenham Glass Co.?
3. In what year did The Hawkins Milling Co. Begin operation in Wallaceburg?
4. Greenmelk, What ingredients were combined to form semi-solid pellet used as animal feed?
5. What years did Caldwell's Children store operate at the corner of Nelson and Wellington Streets?

Answer page 8



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### Beledoon News

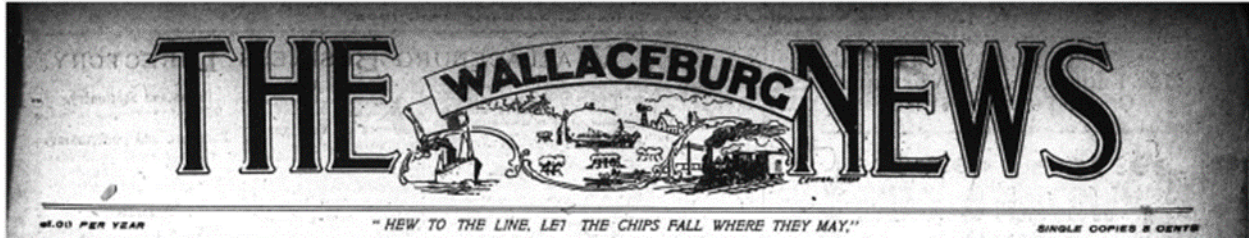
Are you looking to expand advertising as a small or large business? Has your family and family name been here forever? Perhaps you would like to advertise in our Beledoon Newsletter. The newsletter gets published 6 times a year. Cost for year \$100 for a family, \$125 for a business.

For more information please contact the Museum.

**KEVIN CAVANAGH**  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
409 NELSON ST.,  
519 627-3231



**Supports the Historical Society**



## A Dark Time

The time period I write about today was a time that changed the lives of so many around the world. The month was October of 1918. Most will recognize this time period as being the latter part of World War 1. It was not unusual to read about another local name in the newspaper, injured or killed in a battle at the front lines across the ocean. Although this was tragic news that appeared far too often, there was another event that was taking place. The earliest documented case was in the state of Kansas in March 1918, with other cases appearing in France, Germany and the United Kingdom in April. This was the Spanish Flu, also known as the Great Influenza Pandemic, caused by the H1N1 influenza A virus. This global pandemic lasted about 2 years with the number of infected reaching 500 million people and resulting in 50 million to as high as 100 million deaths.

Wallaceburg and surrounding areas were not immune to this outbreak and in the fall of 1918, word of local deaths started to appear in the newspapers. An article, found in the Wallaceburg News from Oct. 17, 1918 with the headline "The Burg in the Grip of Spanish Influenza" reads as follows;

*The epidemic of Spanish influenza has well nigh paralyzed Wallaceburg. Inside of a week, hundreds have been taken down, business firms and manufacturing concerns are struggling along with either a partial or almost tie-up. Three hundred and fifty Glass Works employees are unable to work, the only glassware being turned out is being produced by two Owens machines, and Mr. Dundas feared that the plant would have to be closed up entirely for a time.*

*The staff at the Sugar Company is also badly depleted, but as the beet run has not commenced the effects of the epidemic are not as serious.*

The newspaper of the following week, Oct. 24, 1918, had the headline "The Spanish Influenza's Toll of Dead" with over 20 short writeups of local deaths across two columns including a listing "See Saturday Herald for further list of dead".

Despite the tragedies that have taken place over the past 220 years, starting with the Baldoon Settlement, we still move forward, grow and prosper while remembering the sacrifices and hardships faced by those behind us.

I apologize for bringing to light such tragic events that happened over 105 years ago, but as we have seen far too often, it is often bad news that generates the biggest headlines.

Written by Henry Van Haren

**The K. Simpson Family is a Proud Sponsor  
of the Beledoon Newsletter**

## Curious About your Ancestors?

I've traced family trees for more than 40 years, and I have a database of over 62,000 individuals who settle in and around Kent Country and the Bay of Quinte. If you have family in these areas, I would be happy to do a surname search of my date with further searches using ancestry.com and other available resources. Contact me at [heidimccarron@cogeco.ca](mailto:heidimccarron@cogeco.ca) and please include as much details as possible about your eldest or elusive ancestor. Helpful information: birth year, any geographical location associated with the person, a maiden name, the names of any siblings, oral histories that have been passed down ("Uncle Henry always said his grandfather stowed away on a ship and ended up in Australia.") I am offering this service without charge as long as I can email any documents I might find, if you wish them, along with the report.

Heidi McCarron

### THE WALLACEBURG AND DISTRICT MUSEUM'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

June 29th, 2024 • 505 King Street, Wallaceburg • 519-627-8962



# Save the Date

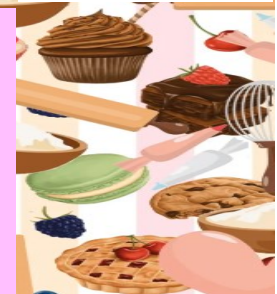


HAPPY  
EASTER



To our Members, Family and Friends,  
Do you bake? Our Vendor Sale Fundraiser is Saturday,  
March 23, 2024 from 8am-1pm  
Baked goods can be dropped off Friday, March 22, 2024  
from 9am to 5pm.

Thank you for your support



**The Rex Crawford Family  
is pleased to be a Beledoon Newsletter sponsor**



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## Yesterdays by Myrna Jewell

Duncan and James



Downtown Wallaceburg has had many changes through the years, and today, I am focusing on the area where TD Bank now stands.

The picture of the wooden building and the curious onlookers was taken around the 1870s, and it is one of the oldest buildings to be built in Wallaceburg. The Baby family built it in the 1830s. This stood right on the corner of Duncan and James Street. Interestingly, this was the house where the Lee family operated their watch repair shop. Work on the Lee Rifle mechanism, which became the basis for the world-famous Lee-Enfield rifle, was carried out in that building. James Lee's rifle tested successfully in 1878.

Check out the museum's excellent rifle display if you are interested in the Lee-Enfield story.

Next to the building was Fisher's Book Store and Dr Mitchell's medical office, with the first Mesonic Hall above that. All these buildings were later destroyed by fire, but the Baby house survived.

It was moved to the corner of William and Elizabeth with sections added to it to create one of Wallaceburg's first apartment blocks. Four families lived there.

The brick building shows the Martin Block built after the fire beside the vacant lot where the Baby house once stood. Throughout the years, you might remember some businesses operating from here, including the Maher Shoe Store and the Dobie Family General Store. To the rear, on Duncan, was McDonald's Photo gallery.

From the front, along with Dobie's, was DuLong's Restaurant.

This picture, taken around 1885, shows an early-style buggy, probably in the spring when the streets would become a quagmire of mud, making passage difficult.



### Wallaceburg History Trivia Answers

1. 1930
2. 1895
3. 1907
4. Grasses and Buttermilk
5. 1950—1970



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Hours: Monday to Saturday 9:00am—5:00pm

Sundays Closed



Please join The Wallaceburg & District Museum for a FREE

11:00am

# NATIONAL CANADIAN FILM DAY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

Featured Film: Little Bird

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2024

Wallaceburg Museum

Every Thursday 1:30pm

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

## BORN IN MARCH

- Attractive personality
- Affectionate and caring
- Naturally honest, sincere
- Loves peace and serenity
- Sensitive to needs of others
- Not easily angered
- Reliable
- Appreciative of gratitude
- Observant
- Loves travel
- Aesthetically gifted

## BORN IN APRIL

- Active and dynamic
- Decisive but impulsive
- Attractive and attention seeking
- Strong mind
- Diplomatic
- Friendly and solves people's issues
- Brave and outgoing
- Loving and giving
- Emotional and generous
- Easily envious

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**Store Hours**

Mon, Tues, Thurs	8:30 - 5:30
Wed	8:30 - 5:30
Fri	8:30 - 6:00
Sat	9:00 - 1:00



L

K

Whats going

on at the

**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](mailto:museumpr@kent.net)

**VENDORS  
WANTED**  
 For our Giant Indoor Vendor

**Looking to volunteer?**  
 Looking for Community Hours



The Wallaceburg & District Museum Presents  
**A High Tea Luncheon**  
 Wear your Easter Bonnet. Bring a Friend.  
**Saturday, March 30th, 2024**  
**12:00pm to 2:00pm**  
**\$20.00 per person**  
  
 Space is limited. RSVP 519-627-8962, to reserve your spot.

**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](mailto:museumpr@kent.net)

**do you  
bake?**  
 Call us

