Regional Municipality of Waterloo
Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation
Board Agenda

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Waterloo County Room/Electronic

Should you require an alternative format please contact the Regional Clerk at Tel.: 519-575-4400, TTY: 519-575-4605, or regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

---

Pages

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Land Acknowledgement**
3. **Award Presentation**
   Sally Thorsen Award of Excellence to be presented to Geoffrey Hayes.
4. **Election of Foundation Chair and Vice-Chair**
   The Foundation will be electing the next Chair and Vice-Chair for a term ending in June 2027.
5. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
6. **Finance Reports**
   - 6.1 **Accounts and Grants Summary** — 3
     For information.
7. **Delegations**
   None.
8. **Approval of Minutes - June 23, 2026** — 5

   Recommended Motion:
   That the minutes of Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation from June 23, 2026 be approved.
9. **Committees**
   - 9.1 **Allocations and Finance**
     The Foundation is to consider the Allocations and Finance Committee grant recommendations and determine the next grant application intake window.
   - 9.2 **Heritage Advisory and Communications**
     The Foundation is to consider holding future meetings, including but not limited to, the Annual General Meeting, at offsite Heritage locations in the Region.

9.3 Strategic Planning

None.

10. Information/Correspondence

10.1 Maryhill Historical Society Newsletter 8

For information.

11. Other Business

12. Next Meeting - October 27, 2026

13. Adjourn

Recommended Motion:

That the meeting adjourn at x:xx x.m.

WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION
June-Aug 2026

Date	Payee/Donor	Description		Amount
16 Jun	BADEN COFFEE COMPANY	catering - WRHF AGM June 10, 2026	$	396.86
22 Jun	WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY	Grant	$	10,200.00
26 Jun	DEXTERRA FOOD SERVICES LP	D / M - Catering - May 26 WRHF	$	125.63
30 Jun	MICHAELS	Misc.	$	115.20
18 Jun	CMS Printshop	WRHF 2026 Award - Aaron Francis Award of Excellence	$	25.46
18 Jun	CMS Printshop	WRHF Sally Thorsen Award of Excellence Geoffrey Hayes	$	25.46
18 Jun	CMS Printshop	WRHF Dr. Jean Steckle Award Karen VandenBrink	$	25.46
16 Jul	DEXTERRA FOOD SERVICES LP	D / M - Catering - June 23 WRHF	$	157.66
			$	11,071.73

WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION
Net Funding Position

Balance in Operating Account as at August 31, 2026	$	147,758.56
Net Funding Position as at August 31, 2026	**$**	**147,758.56**

WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION
Grant Summary Statement
June-Aug 2026

Grants Approved and Paid

Date Paid	Grants Paid in 2025	
2025-10-31	Rhythm & Blues Cambridge for the Emancipation Day Celebration	$ 10,500.00
2025-10-29	Stephen Young for the Dickson & Bruce History meets Mystery film series	$ 5,160.00
2025-12-31	the Hearts Open for Everyone (H.O.P.E.) for the 3rd Annual Multicultural Festival of Elmira (MFE) event	$ 27,200.00
2025-12-31	Juanita Metzger on behalf of Stroll Walking Tours to develop three new walking tours based on significant women's history in the Region of Waterloo	$ 7,627.50
	Subtotal	**$ 50,487.50**

Date Paid	Grants Paid in 2026	
2026-02-01	Janna Martin for the project titled 'A Working Group on Unsettling Mennonite Public History'	$ 1,168.00
2026-03-12	Peggy Plet to explore and document the lives and experiences of Black domestic workers in the Region of Waterloo	$ 4,351.93
2026-03-18	Muslim Social Services Waterloo Region for the Arabic Calligraphy Program	$ 5,820.00
2026-06-22	Waterloo Historical Society for the publication of the Annual Volume 112 - 2024	$ 10,200.00
	Subtotal	**$ 21,539.93**

Total Grants Paid **$ 72,027.43**

Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation

Board Minutes

June 23, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Waterloo County Room/Electronic

Present:	E. Dyck, P. Elsworthy, J. Glass, K. Redman, N. Salonen, S. Sharma, K. Twomey, H. Peller-Oliver, P. Wolf
Absent:	N. Baskanderi, K. Costello, R. Shipley, T. Falconer,

---

1. Call to Order

L. Mewhiney, Foundation Secretary, called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

L. Mewhiney provided a land acknowledgement.

3. Regional Appointment Ratification and Introductions

All Directors provided a brief introduction of themselves.

4. Election of Foundation Chair and Vice-Chair

The Foundation opted to defer the selection of Chair and Vice-Chair until the September 22 meeting, when most or all Directors will be in attendance.

Moved by J. Glass
Seconded by P. Elsworthy

That the nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair be deferred to the Foundation's September 22 meeting.

Carried

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

6. Finance Reports

6.1 Accounts and Grants Summary

In response to the Foundation, L. Mewhiney confirmed that the Waterloo Historical Society grant is not reflected in the June Accounts and Grants Summary but will be reflected in the next Summary.

Received for information.

7. Delegations

None.

8. Approval of Minutes - May 26, 2026

Moved by P. Elsworthy
Seconded by H. Peller-Oliver

That the minutes of Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation from May 26, 2026 be approved.

Carried

9. Committees

L. Mewhiney provided a brief overview and description of each of the Committees. The Foundation determined that volunteers for each Committee will be arranged via email.

9.1 Allocations and Finance

L. Mewhiney confirmed that 11 grant applications have been received to date.

10. Information/Correspondence

10.1 Maryhill Historical Society Newsletter

Received for information.

11. Other Business

The Foundation expressed gratitude for Castle Kilbride's hospitality in hosting the Foundation's Annual General Meeting and suggested that occasional future meetings be held offsite at other local heritage locations.

12. Next Meeting - September 22, 2026

The next meeting of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation is on September 22, 2026.

13. Adjourn

Moved by H. Peller-Oliver
Seconded by P. Elsworthy

That the meeting adjourn at 6:16 p.m.

Carried

Committee Clerk

Committee Chair

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

Editor: Erin Parsons

1338 B Maryhill Rd
Maryhill, ON N0B2B0

Email: maryhillroots@gmail.com

Website: maryhillroots.com

Facebook: maryhillroots

PRESERVING THE HISTORY & HERITAGE OF THE MARYHILL COMMUNITY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

1826 MARYHILL 200 YEARS OLD 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a wonderful summer for the Maryhill Historical Society, and I would like to thank everyone who has continued to support our events and activities.

Our Canada Day celebration was a great success and made even more special as we came together as a community to celebrate Maryhill's 200th anniversary. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, along with new ones, joining us at the Halter House to mark this important milestone in Maryhill's history. A special thank you to Rural Roots Brewing Company for creating the commemorative Maryhill 200 beer for the occasion. If you haven't picked some up yet, be sure to stop by Rural Roots in Elmira to purchase yours.

We also had beautiful commemorative tote bags made to celebrate the anniversary. If you were unable to get one on Canada Day and would still like one, please let us know.

Our card parties have also continued to be well attended, and we appreciate everyone who comes out to take part and support the Society.
As summer winds down, we are looking forward to a busy fall. We hope you will join us for Heritage Day on September 20th and our Annual General Meeting on November 15th. We will also be welcoming trick-or-treaters back to the Halter House for Halloween, so be sure to stop by for some candy if you are out in the neighbourhood.

Thank you, as always, to our members, volunteers, and community for your continued support. It is your involvement that allows us to continue preserving Maryhill's history while also creating new memories together.

Warm regards,
Erin Parsons

EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE -Sundays
June 7-Sept 20 , 12-3 pm
CARD PARTIES -Euchre-
Mondays July 6-Aug 31, 6:30 pm
HERITAGE DAY Sept 20, 12 pm
HALLOWE'EN Oct 31
AGM Nov 15 , 11:45 am
CHRISTMAS CHEER
Sun Dec 13, 11:45 am Rectory

EXECUTIVE

President: Erin Parsons
Vice President: Frank Rider
Secretary: Mare Zettel
Treasurer: Marie Nap
Past President: Linda Kennedy
DIRECTORS:
Doug Keller
James Metcalfe
Carol Neumann
Diane Strickler
Jessica Zettel
Tony Zettel

Canada Day Pictures








HERITAGE DAY

Join Us in Celebrating 200 Years of Maryhill! Come out and celebrate Maryhill's 200th anniversary with food, prizes, a silent auction and plenty of community spirit!

Sunday, September 20 ~ Maryhill Community Centre ~ 12 noon - 4 pm

Tickets: Adults: $20 per person ~ Children under 10: $10 ~ Children five and under: Free

Tickets can be purchased from any Maryhill Historical Society director. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or e-transfer. Please include HERITAGE DAY in the memo.

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

As Maryhill celebrates its 200th anniversary, we are pleased to continue sharing stories that bring our community's rich history to life. In this edition, we look back at a time when Maryhill—then known as New Germany—and nearby Freiburg each had their own post office, revealing a fascinating chapter in the development of our community.

A very special thank-you to our Vice President, Frank Rider, who dedicates countless hours to researching and writing these historical articles. His careful work helps preserve Maryhill's stories and ensures they can be shared with generations to come. We are incredibly grateful for his time, knowledge and commitment to keeping our local history alive.

Maryhill Had Two Post Offices for 3 Years

The story that the post office was originally in Freiburg[1] but was moved from Freiburg to New Germany[2] is partly true, but not completely accurate.

In the early days, there was no local postal service. Settlers were left to retrieve their mail on their own from other established post offices [Galt 1826, Guelph 1828, Waterloo 1831] [3] - the precise post office is not known.] As was the case in other areas, someone in the community would step forward to retrieve mail for all local inhabitants. In 1837, Mathias Fehrenbach assumed the duty of postman.[4]

By 1847, a post office was set up in the "Temperance House"[5] built circa 1840 by Ferdinand Rombach. It served both Freiburg and New Germany, even though the two were rivals.[6] It became an official post office named Freiburg in 1851 with Ferdinand Rombach as postmaster.[7] Mail was first delivered to Freiburg via stage coach from the Preston[8] post office established in 1837.[9] In 1871 it came from the Bloomingdale post office.

The only other rural post offices in the area at that time were Winterbourne [1841] and West Woolwich [Elmira 1849].

The Freiburg hotel was destroyed by fire on Sunday October 8, 1882, at the time Mr. George Zinger was proprietor and postmaster.[10] The Freiburg post office was then officially closed in 1883,[11] 3 years after the post office in New Germany opened. Only then was mail for Freiburg residents redirected to New Germany.

Freiburg Postmasters [12]

Postmaster	Appointment Date	Vacancy Date	Cause of Vacancy
Ferdinand Rombach	1851/11/06	1876	Death
Mrs. Catherine Rombach	1879/01/01	1879	Death
Ferdinand Rombach Jr.	1879/11/01	1880/01/20	Resignation
George Zinger	1880/02/01	1883/04/01	Closed

In 1879, the post office was opened in New Germany, just one mile to the east. Perhaps this was when the rivalry between the communities still existed. The location of this first post office was probably in the St. Boniface Hotel.[13] The first postmaster was Joseph Fromm, who served for only 3 months.[14]

New Germany Postmasters

Postmaster	Appointment Date	Vacancy Date	Cause of Vacancy
Joseph Fromm	1879/09/01	1879/12/16	Resignation
Albert Emlinger	1880/04/01	1884/01/31	Resignation
Andrew Klein	1884/04/01	1886/09/16	Death
Charles Halter	1887/07/01	1901/06/04	Resignation
Anton Frank	1901/11/01	1926/03	Death
Anthony J. Frank	1926/03/31	1930/12/03	Resignation
Frank Scherrer			Declined
Simon George Zinger	1931/01/09	1941/02/10	NAME CHANGE

Maryhill Postmasters

Postmaster	Appointment Date	Vacancy Date	Cause of Vacancy
Simon George Zinger	1941/02/10	1947/09/11	Undisclosed
Cyril Joseph Benner	194//03/10	1954/09/11	Resignation
Alfred Joseph Waechter	1954/10/05	1978/01/30	Resignation
Richard W. Berwick	1978/01/31	1978/09/08	Resignation
Mrs. Margaret Berwick	1978/09/08		

The Maryhill Post office was officially closed in 2006.

Local history recalls Marion Klein as serving as first postmaster out of her store [now the site of Voisin Motors]. But it was her husband Andrew who was officially appointed the 3 rd postmaster. Perhaps it was actually Marion who tended the store and post office during his tenure, and continued to do so for 10 months after his death. Sadly, she is not recognized in postal history records.

Mail started to be transported by rail when the railroad went through to Kitchener in 1856. For several years [circa 1891] mail was delivered from Breslau to Maryhill and onto Weissenburg via stage coach. (3 days per week).

When the stage service ceased, the run to get the mail was done by private citizens. In an interview at age 87, Mr. Alfred Rider [born 1893] describes that as a boy living in Weissenburg, he was responsible for driving the mail to Breslau every day. He found it humorous that “it may not have been quite legal because of his age to shoulder such a government responsibility.” [15]

1 Freiburg was at the intersection of St. Charles St and Shantz Station Rd, 1 mile west of the Maryhill intersection.
2 Maryhill was known as New Germany from about 1846 to 1941
3 Canada Postal records
4 MHS Newsletter – Summer 2020 – Susie Motz quoting from Marie Durrer-Voisin’s Fehrenbach history
5 St, Boniface 1877 – 1977 – page 42, also The Daily Record 1923 – Journal of New Germany – volume 2
6 Waterloo Township Through Two centuries – Elizabeth Bloomfield
7 Canada postal records
8 Waterloo Township Through Two centuries – Elizabeth Bloomfield – page 7
9 Canada Postal records
10 The Daily record 1923 - Journal of New Germany – volume 2
11 Canada Postal records
12 List of Postmasters for both Freiburg and New Germany/Maryhill from Canada Postal Records
13 New Germany to Maryhill – Strickler/Stroh – page 21
14 Joseph Fromm was an early entrepreneur. Record of him was found as being merchant in Freiburg. In 1855, he purchased two acres in Weissenburg from Jacob Brohman and established a store there. At the time Weissenburg was in the postal area of Winterbourne.
15 The Daily Mercury Sat Nov 1, 1980 & The History of Wellington County – Jean Hutchinson

Maryhill
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

50TH ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY & FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 12:00-4:00PM

THE MARYHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

LUNCH : ADULTS $20.00

KIDS (10 & UNDER) $10.00

(5 & UNDER) FREE



SILENT AUCTION

50/50

DOOR PRIZES

ROADSIDE CROSS TOUR AFTER LUNCH

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

AT THE CHURCH BEFORE & AFTER MASS SEPT 6TH & 13TH

EMAIL: MARYHILLROOTS@GMAIL.COM

FROM ANY DIRECTOR

OR CALL- Diane: 519 648-2432

or email: maryhillroots@gmail.com

pay by cash, cheque or e-transfer to maryhillroots@gmail.com