

Stoney Creek Historical Society

PO Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON. L8G 5E6

NEWSLETTER

Remember the Corman House

June 2017 Edition # 70

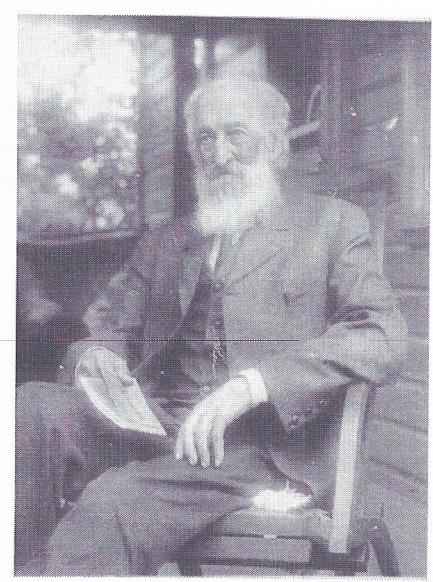
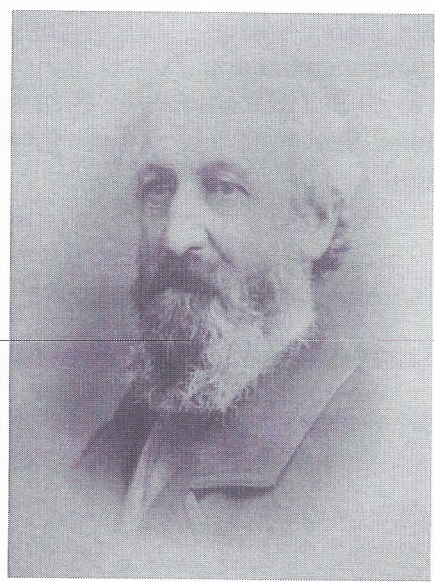
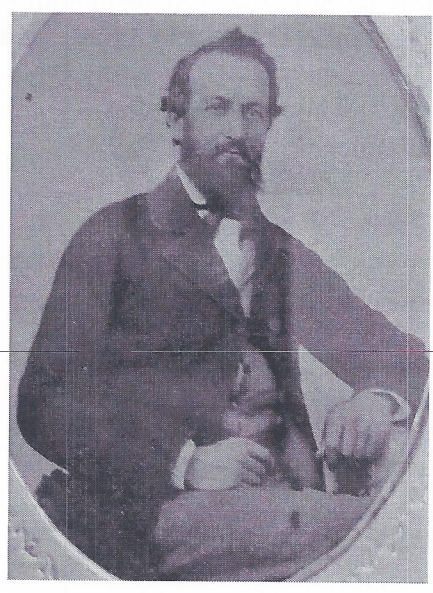
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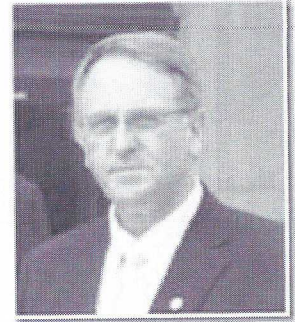
Peter Spohn Van Wagner 1818 – 1906 (Van Wagner's Beach)

Served as a Justice of the Peace for Wentworth County from 1842 until the time of his death in 1906. A farmer by calling, on the Lake's edge to Barton Street, Lots 25 & 26. (*his farm basically ran through the now-a-days parking lot for Confederation Park*). Van Wagner wrote many newspaper short articles on local history and pioneer reminiscences, using the pen name Hans. In his early years Van Wagner learned the trade of a millwright and in later years he learned the trade of a carriage builder. In addition to this he taught school in Hamilton and Dundas and spent some time travelling in the northwestern states. Politically Van Wagner was a Reformer. He served in the Third Gore Regiment as an orderly room clerk during the Rebellion of 1837-1838. In his middle years Van Wagner was a successful farmer taking great interest in new agricultural inventions. In 1846 he married Eliza Jane Pettit Carpenter in an Anglican Church ceremony. His wife predeceased him in 1890. At the time of his death Van Wagner was survived by his son Lieut. - Col. Van Wagner and three daughters. Mrs J. V. Spohn of Saltfleet Township; Mrs C. B. Hamilton of Toronto; and Miss Edith Van Wagner, at home. In addition to immediate offspring Peter Van Wagner was survived by his brother C. T. Van Wagner of Saltfleet and by his sister Mrs. Pettit of Detroit, Michigan.

Peter died at Stoney Creek on December 2, 1906
 He kept a daily journal of life on the farm from 1850 to his death in 1906.

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The celebrations for Canada's 150 years since Confederation, are well underway. The Stoney Creek Historical Society (SCHS) is proud to have played, and will continue to play, a local role in those celebrations. That theme has been the focus of our activities.

Although the weather was poor (rain), May 6th saw a dozen individuals participate in a Jane's Walk of Old Towne, Stoney Creek. On June 6th, more than 35 SCHS members attended a Fish Fry at the Stoney Creek Legion.

Our 1st VP, **Kathy Wakeman**, has been the Stoney Creek Confederation 150 Committee coordinator for many months. That Committee coordinated many fine activities in our downtown area on June 17th and 18th. SCHS volunteers met many interested individuals at our table, including several new members. Kathy and Director **Denise Wachnuik** dressed in period costume, and **Mike Pearson** from the Stoney Creek NEWS placed their photo on the front page. Thanks Mike. Kathy's team (**Denise & Ashley Jamieson**) created historical photo boards of the downtown area that were displayed in many businesses. Feedback on them has been very positive. We conducted more walking tours. My thanks to **Dan, Judy, Larry, Gary, Peter, and Marie** for their assistance at our table. On behalf of all of our SCHS members, **thank you Kathy** for those countless hours, hard work, and dedication. You should be very proud of the result.

A special thank you to **Georgina Beattie** for submitting pictures and a well written History of the Winona Peach Festival.... a Centennial project celebrating it's 50th this year. Congratulations!

SCHS Director **Marie Robbins** was selected by the Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce as the 2016 Citizen of the Year. Marie spoke eloquently about her lifetime of community service, upon receipt of that award, at Winona Vine Estates. **Congratulations Marie!**

Past President **Mary Lewis** received a volunteer award for her 30 years with SCHS. Mary is currently recuperating from surgery. Mary, you are missed. Our best wishes for a full recovery.

Our volunteers (**Nancy, Sue, & Judy**) at our Reference Library and Archive are taking a well deserved break during August. Other arrangements during that time are being made. Please consult our website www.stoneycreekhistorical.ca for further details.

My thanks to **Doug Green** for all of his efforts with our Newsletter.

SCHS has three new business members. **Sabourin Auto** at King St.E and New Mountain Rd sabourinauto@bellnet.ca , **Amica**, Corey Stirrett c.stirrett@amica.ca , and **TD Canada Trust**, Green Rd. and #8hwy. Thank you for your membership.

In summary, my thanks to all SCHS members for their loyalty and ongoing support.

Enjoy the 150 Celebrations! Best wishes to all for a great summer.

Happy Birthday Canada!

Greg Armstrong
President-SCHS

The following is transcribed from Peter Van Wagner's journal for the year of Canada's birth 1867. (part of the months June and July)

June 1867 Summertime on a farm in Stoney Creek 150 years ago

Saturday 8th

The men finishing up the oats – In the afternoon I drove to town W W Bates along and His Mightiness Then rode back with me – The day fine & warm – wheat has been down to \$1.50 per bushel but rose again to \$1.75 – Oats 45 cents – Indian corn to 95 cents all grains high. By the newspapers we have Her Majesty's Proclamation – forming the Two Canada – Nova Scotia and New Brunswick into a confederation on the 1st Day of July. The union to be called The Dominion of Canada

Tuesday 25th

Tim kept us up last night sick & moaning. I drove him to town to see Dr Miller – A little cooler - Great talk about Confederation Day which falls on Monday next – when all sorts of glorification is expected in town – Grand affair the birth day of “The Dominion of Canada” The federation of a mighty Northern Empire to be laid without the loss of a life or the firing of a gun except in the way of rejoicing – a proof of the importance made in human affairs. Carl here in the evening (*Tim Wardley hired hand*) (*Carl Schultz rented and farmed Peter's other property west of Grays road between Barton St and # 8 highway*)

Wednesday 26th 12 M

There was an attempt to rain this morning which failed. I drove to Stoney Creek by way of Carl's – Some Old Fellow called Stratton is suspected of stealing flour from Ira Utter. Tim trying very hard to be very sick. The men have some large piles of manure up. Saw Mr A E Carpenter this morning (*A.E. Carpenter is Peter's stepson about 22 at this time living with his grand parents Elias & Abigail Pettit (Peter's in-laws) on farm at Millen rd and the lake*)

Thursday 27th

The men hoeing corn. I was at Carl's in the forenoon – yesterday looking at the barn roof which needs repairs – the farm is going to ruin – Russell thinks we could set it right if I put him on it – but Carl seems anxious to stay. Dr Miller called to see Tim today and was paid \$4.00 which Tim promises to return – The damp foggy east wind is some relief from the generally hot dry weather.

Friday June 28th 12 Oc M

A light sprinkling of rain last night scarcely laying the dust and a return to dry weather again. I started to the Race Course at 4 1/2 Oc a m and saw Ruric at 6 Oc under the Grand Stand Flora Glen on hand. The men are working the road today partly for me partly for themselves. (*Ruric & Flora Glen are race horses and I assume the Race course is the Hamilton Jockey Club*)

Saturday 29th

We worked on the barn in the forenoon and in the afternoon David Moore, Russell St John and I drove to town – saw – the preparations making for the Celebration of Confederation Day. Mrs Pettit came up in the evening or pm (*David & Russell are hired farm hands*)

Sunday 30th 11 1/2 Oc a m

High westerly wind – Daniel Lewis, Geo Hall, Jont Corey, David Moore and Wes Lewis are out trying my boat. She is only 16 1/3 feet long 5 1/3 beam – 19 inches deep at midships – carries 20 – yds are heavy twilled cotton with 12 feet hoist and broad quarters – and appears to stand up to this high wind finely – The ground is parched with drought.

CONFEDERATION DAY

Monday July 1st 1867

Away to the city with two buggies – Mary and Anna in one – Henry, Jane jr and I in the other Hot and dusty with westerly wind. The military and the different so all ties turned out – so also did the “Gallo thespians” a group of fantastically dressed youths – The races came off next and in the evening a “magnificent display of fireworks which kept the people in the streets till near 12 Oc at night. On the whole the day was very creditably honored. We took dinner and tea at Mr Jas Craigies. (*Mary, Anna, Henry and Jane jr are Peter's children*)

Tuesday 2nd

Commenced cutting clover David & Russell (*hired hands*) – The day was quite hot – I was at the PO and at the new store for the first. (*Post Office at King and Mountain Stoney Creek*)

Wednesday 3rd

Our very hot day – mowing at putting up – In the afternoon Jos Perry and I drove to the city – Heard the reported execution of the Mexican Emperor Maximilian confirmed – This causes quite a sensation – Juarez a monster – Mr E Pettit called. (*Elias Pettit Peter's father in-law*)

Thursday 4th

A great day in Yankeedom no doubt. We found it very hot working in the hay. Rain has been pouring on every side of us – but we got only a few drops – Everything is parched and the crops will amount to very little. Mrs Pettit and Mary drove to the city – the Old Sovereign Kimrod called for the last time – Wind lately has been high & variable

Friday 5th

By our papers it appears Maximilian was shot on the 19th ultimo (*executed in June*) We worked today at the barn – Rain set in towards evening. Wm G Lewis called for me to go to a political meeting at Stoney Creek – but the rain prevented us from going – Mrs Pettit still here.

Saturday July 6th 8 Oc a m

Considerable rain fell last night – Warm with westerly wind – High
Ps David worked in the barn. Russell in the pm worked for himself – The rain has brightened up the withering crops and prospects are better

Sunday July 7th

High westerly wind which towards evening is cool and already fall like. Mrs Pettit went home but returned in the evening. JH Biggar paid Mrs B a visit. A very long a/c in the Globe concerning the Reform Convention in Toronto. We are very much in want of a hired girl – none to be had – all get married and enjoy afterwards dogs comfort – hunger & ease.

Monday 8th

We hauled in some hay & had some get wet towards night. In the evening JW Hopkins came over & he Mrs B & I sat up till near 12 Oc arranging the school report.

Tuesday 9th

Heavy rain last night – very acceptably – The men worked in the barn – Tim and I transplanted 77 young walnut and butternut trees. Townsend called in the morning also EP – Rev'd Green & sons whose boat lay on the shore last night – Santa Anna's execution confirmed.

Wednesday 10th

In the hay the weather warm – nothing remarkable occurring – Fletcher called

Thursday 11th

Brennen sent a carpenter down to finish up hall veranda etc. Quite hot – the men cultivating corn & taters and at the hay – a very little rain in the afternoon – High westerly wind – Fletcher got the team in the forenoon – Mrs Pettit and Mary drove to Biggars.

Friday 12th

Heard drums – Anniversary of the battle of the Boyne – The men at the hay – I drove to town after Brennen who came down. I was also at the race course. Mary, Anna drove Brennen home

Saturday 13th

Quite cold last night and this forenoon with easterly wind. The men are cutting grass (rather clover) It is badly tangled.

Sunday 14th 8 Oc a m

Dr Case here and a “**young un**” of the feminine gender has set up its first cry, displeasure no doubt with the world already complaining. I started to town (7 miles) at 1 1/4 to 5 , returned at 6 1/2 Oc. This morning cold with easterly wind. Mrs Pettit is the only woman in attendance

2 1/2 pm Returned an hour or so ago from taking Dr Case back. The day continues cool with sunshine. Russell, Liz St J have gone to the Fifty

Ps AEC & Mrs, Jas Hill & Mrs, JHB & Mrs were here in the afternoon
(*birth of Peter's youngest daughter Edith Georgian Van Wagner who lived unmarried on the farm until her death in March of 1953*)

Monday 15th 6 Oc a m

This is my Forty Ninth Birthday. The morning is pleasant though a little cool. All appear to be in good humour and the prospect is favourable for a profitable week. Aside from the “young un” squalling vigorously last night everything has gone favourably.

Ps I drove to town and on my return found Jeffrey the carpenter at work again.
About 3 Oc pm rain set in

Tuesday July 16th 4 Oc pm

The day fine, the men finish the cutting of the clover – a sore job being badly lodged
Light easterly wind “Sall Dadd” here

Wednesday July 17th

Hauling in clover. Weather fine.

Thursday 18th

Lady Gourley called, I went to town with the carpenter Jeffrey. EP here and several of the neighbors have called. The men cutting the upper meadow.

Friday 19th

The weather still fine. Taking in hay – Some sea from eastward. Townsend and Edith called (late) (*Peter's brother and wife who lived on his father's original farm about the corner of Delawana Dr. & Lake Ave.*)

Saturday 20th 11 Oc a m

Fine easterly breeze – by working extra hours early and late I have got the last sail roped anew, made a new gaff etc. The men mowing – I intend going to the city this afternoon to bring down Tim's windows – Mrs P (*Pettit*) is still here.

Ps I was in town and brought home Tim's windows.

(*Peter had several small cottages on his property where the hired help lived*)

Sunday 21st 9 Oc pm

There was a stiff breeze in the morning of which I took the benefit in having a bit of sail up the shore and about noon David and I were at EP's with the boat. Mrs Pettit and Mary going round with the buggy – Mrs P staying – In the afternoon Mr & Mrs Schultz paid us a visit and only left a few minutes ago. Quite warm – Townsend here in the morning. On the whole the day has been fatiguing and unsatisfactory. The new baby keeps very quiet and grows finely.

Monday 22nd

Working at the hay – very hot with a brisk shower between 12 & 1 Oc – Townsend is helping Billy Davis stack hay etc. Miss F ___ is at Billy's – consequently Tim is there a great part of his time eh! In the evening Tom Ness. John & boy came down with Jas Craigie's horse to be pastured. They had a bath etc.

Tuesday 23rd

The day one of the hottest. The men mowed in the forenoon – hauled in, in the afternoon. The girls at Mrs Crosthwaite's

Wednesday 24th 12 M

Nearly as hot as yesterday. The men mowing – Heard of the certain death of “Old Sall” (26) from eating too much clover.

Ps In the evening Mrs Alexander (Rev'd) Miss A, two master A's, Rev'd Wesley, Miss Crawford, Dr McKelcan, Mr Meredith and two or three Misses were out in the boat – Now the hottest weather.

Thursday 25th

The morning looked threatening – We put up all that would answer and the afternoon was rainy. E Pettit called

Friday July 26th Noon

Was at EP's in the boat in the morning left Tim & Henry there to pick cherries and have since been at Perry's – Easterly wind. (*Perry had blacksmith shop on Beach Strip*)

Ps I was at the Race course in the afternoon with Hall to see Ruric – Father & Stepmother called

Saturday July 27th

Hauling in hay. The past week has been one of the hottest entirely – David Moore wants to leave and go a sailing.

Sunday 28th

High westerly wind – Hall and a number of others are out in our boat. There was a little rain in the afternoon. I spent the day reading Hugh Miller.

Monday 29th noon

The men mowing with the machine. I have been at Perry's. Cooler high westerly wind. Timothy Wardley started to Acton yesterday on horseback

Tuesday 30th

The men mowing with the machine. I was at Stoney Creek yesterday and coming home met Mary on Vic. She said Jemmy was bitten or stung by an insect. She went to Dr McKelcan – Jemmy got better and the doctor & I went to a political meeting at Albion Mills with _____
(*Jemmy was Peter's youngest son about 4 or 5 yrs old*)

Wednesday 31st

Yesterday Thomas Robertson & Alva G Jones were here – I went with them to Perry's. This day has been fine – Carl Schultz and Bill Combs helped us haul in hay (18 loads) This about finished the hay trade this season (60 loads) Heard today that the loving brothers Jas Lee & A G Jones were riding out and fell out of the buggy – the former getting hurt. The girls drove to town in the afternoon

Committee Chairs / Co-ordinators

Archives: Nancy Capstick, Judy Green,
Sue Heatherley archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

Telephone: June Guzar
Membership: Dan Lee

Social: Bev Gray, Carolyn Briggs
Programming: Kathy Wakeman

Website: Terrance Smith
Newsletter: Doug Green

Please contact *Doug Green* by telephone at (905) (662-4065) or by email at newsletter@stoneycreekhistorical.ca or dgreen136@cogeco.ca

If you have questions or answers regarding our newsletter content or contributions or if you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter via e-mail. Help us reduce mailing & printing costs.

The Stoney Creek Historical Society's Archives and Reference Library is located at 605 Highway 8. We are generally open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm - 4pm. Visitors and researchers are always welcome. Please come and join us.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

Through the efforts of Mr James Smith a Mission was started in Stoney Creek in 1914. The Mission was later united with the Cheyne Church Saltfleet and Cheyne Church with its congregation has transferred to Stoney Creek.

On February 14th 1917 at the home of James Smith the annual meeting was held. The following is the minutes of that meeting.

“Mr. WB Mitchell was appointed secretary.

Mr. James Jackson presented the Sunday School report. Receipts for 52 Sundays totalled \$51.80 and expenses \$46.58.

Mrs Jackson reported that the Women's Missionary Society received \$80.80 of which \$80.00 was contributed to the Mission.

The Ladies Aid Society report as presented by Mrs Simenton.

“Rendered assistance to the congregation by financing the eve troughing of the sheds and had donated \$50.00 to the fire sufferers of Northern Ontario. Receipts \$232.64. Expenses \$155.19. Balance on hand \$77.45 with \$193.07 from previous year making a total \$270.52 on hand.”

The Treasurer Mr. W.B. Mitchell, presented the financial statement

“Receipts \$1,251.32 – Expenditures \$1016.00 – Balance on hand \$232.32.

The auditors, Mr. James Jackson and Mr Elmer Milmine examined the accounts and found them to be correct.”

Mr. Milmine and Mr Mitchell were re-elected to the Board of Managers for three years. The other members of the Board were Mr. Ptolemy and Mr Huffman.”

The following year, at the Annual Meeting, the congregation voted on a motion to build a new church in Stoney Creek – the motion carried 24 in favour and 3 opposed. It was reported that the building would cost \$1658 and the foundation \$137.

submitted by Harold Parker

Upcoming Speakers at Stoney Creek Historical

Wednesday, September 6 th	at 7:00 pm	Speaker: Robert Winninger Topic: History of Tea
Wednesday, October 4 th ,	at 7:00 pm	Speaker: Volunteers Topic: Nelles House Museum
Wednesday, November 1 st	at 7:00 pm	Speaker: TBA Topic:

Stoney Creek Historical Society Board of Directors

President	Greg Armstrong	(905) 662-6269
Past President	Mary Lewis	(905) 643-3665
1 st Vice President	Kathy Wakeman	(905) 561-9040
Treasurer	Judy Sowden	(905) 662-5756
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Director	Gary Strong	(905) 578-3556
Director	Peter Kennedy	(905) 664-5706
Director	Dan Lee	(905) 662-5756
Director	Marie Robbins	(905) 662-1813
Director	Denise Wachnuik	(905) 741-3047

Member Business Directory

Amica at Stoney Creek	Corey Stirrett	135 King St. East	(905) 664-8444
Barbara Gough Insurance	Barbara Gough	364 Highway # 8	(905) 662-4116
Bertram & Barry Insurance Ltd.		6 Lake Ave. S	(905) 662-8645
Briarwood Animal Hospital		76 King St. E.	(905) 664-4888
Britannia Cleaners	Ed Strecker	17 King Street East	(905) 662-4971
Chamber of Commerce		21 Mountain Ave S	(905) 664-4000
Comic 1 Books	Casey Parsons	67 King St. E.	(905) 664-3777
Donald V Brown Funeral Home	Julie Brown	36 Lake Ave Dr	(905) 662-2948
Dr. Keith Millar		304 – 15 Mountain Ave S	(905) 662-2312
Karen Cerello CPA Professional Corporation		42 King St. E. Unit 4	(905) 662-2848
Legacy Picture Framing		3 – 178 Barton St.	(905) 662-0085
Marel Real Estate	Casey Marel	580 Grays Rd.	(905) 929-3727
Parkway Back & Foot Clinic	Dr Barry McHardy	11B – 910 Queenston Rd	(905) 662-9835
Queenston Stationary	Mario Figueroa	38 King St. East	(905) 664-3360
RBC Royal Bank	Paul Kelzer	917 Queenston Rd.	(905) 564-6575
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 622	Joyce Brown	12 King St. East	(905) 662-4171
Sabourin Auto	Rick Sabourin	82 King St. East	(905) 662-7322
S.W. Plumbing		49 Upper Lake Ave	(905) 741-2552
Swiss Chalet # 1105	Zeb Ponte	735 Queenston Rd	(905) 561-1414
The Innsville	Bob Hemberger	1143 Hwy. 8	(905) 643-1244

STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORY OF STONEY CREEK

I WOULD LIKE TO ACQUIRE/RENEW MEMBERSHIP IN THE S.C.H.S. **2017 RENEWAL**

NAME (S) _____ MONTH _____ DAY _____ YEAR _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. SINGLE - \$20.00 (CANADA POST) | 2. SINGLE WITH EMAIL - \$15.00 | |
| 3. FAMILY - \$25.00 (CANADA POST) | 4. FAMILY WITH EMAIL - \$20.00 | 5. BUSINESS - \$35.00 |

PLEASE ACCEPT MY ADDITIONAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION OF \$ _____ TO ASSIST THE WORK OF
THE STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY. RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR DONATIONS OF \$25 OR MORE.
PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE OUR NEWS LETTER BY EMAIL OR CANADA POST.

PLEASE SEND TO : STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,P.O. BOX 66637,STONEY CREEK, ONTARIO, L8G 5E6
WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOU ATTENDING OUR MEETINGS.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING OUR NEWSLETTER FOR A \$35.00 DONATION
MEMBERSHIPS CAN ALSO BE RENEWED ONLINE USING PAYPAL.

Historical Society Research Queries

Please contact via email:
archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

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