

## NHS Schedule of Events for 2019

Apr – Wayne Taylor – Highlights of his employment with Nassagaweya Township Dept of Roads during Mid 60's to mid 80's when under Town of Milton Dept of Roads.

May – Farm Radio: George Atkinson by Bob and Mary Carley

Jun – “Life on the Farm” Audrey Allison/Norman Moore present life while on the farm Nassagaweya/Puslinch Town Line and Lot 26 (based on diaries of Keith Moore donated to NHS by son Norman)

Jul – Kean Hill Cemetery (presentation had been put together several years ago to preserve this burial ground, otherwise was just going to be bulldozed over to make building lot) Special Guest of Kean Family.

Aug – BBQ (Aub Kitching) 4449 Concession 11, Puslinch (Moffat)

Sep – Halton Heritage Services (Museum) John Summers and staff will talk with us about their changes and how the importance of NHS role is to help preserve history.

Oct – Fun and Frustration investigating Family History and a common name through several generations Heather McTavish -Taylor

Nov – Thomas Early WW1 presentation by Tim and Sandra Gray

Dec – Potluck



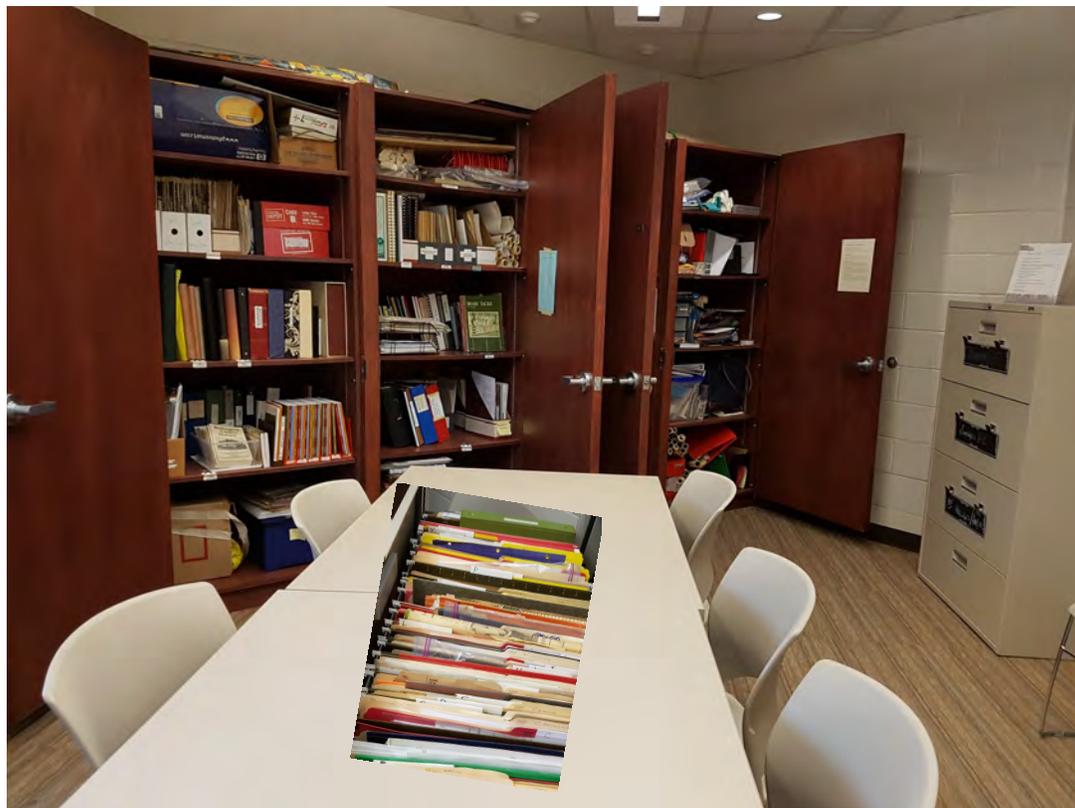
# Between the waters

Nasagaweya Historical Society  
Newsletter

Volume 6

Issue 1

## A year in Review—2019



### At the Archives:

We are at our Archives the 3rd Saturday of each month for a minimum of 3 hours. We are still a work in Progress. We are currently filing paper documents, i.e. newspaper clippings, photos, family history and other accumulated paper information.

We have had several inquiries of family surnames, and properties that we need to research and get back to the person making request.

With many visitors on the days we are open to everyone we are finding it diffi-

cult to research, keep on top of filing and recording on the same day. We are trying to bring our archives into a more organized user friendly searchable procedure.

If you are interested in volunteering please speak with Audrey Allison at the next meeting or send an email to: [info@nasagaweyahistoricalociety.com](mailto:info@nasagaweyahistoricalociety.com)

Volunteers: Marilyn Coxe, Joy Simpson, McLaren Brown, Audrey Kitching, Charlene Tuersley, Eileen McIntyre, Heather McTavish Taylor and Sheila Hobeck

Audrey Allison—Archivist.

# NASAGIWEYA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Primary Business Address  
PO Box 106  
Campbellville, ON  
L0P 1B0

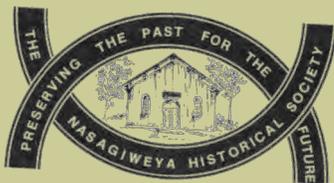
Phone: 519 837-9288

E-mail:

info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com

We are on the Web!  
[www.nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com](http://www.nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com)

We are on Social Media! <https://www.facebook.com/nasagiweyahistoricalsociety>



Copyright of Nasagiweya Historical Society

## Our Mission

- To research, collect, document and preserve all information of the pioneers of Nassagaweya.
- To share our knowledge with all who are interested - present and future.



Norman Moore, former resident grew up on farm on the Townline north of 20th Sideroad, Nassagaweya . Norman donated his father diaries into our care September 2018, They will eventually be transcribed and submitted to the Rural Diaries Program at the University of Guelph when date restriction is permitted as these are too current at present. We thank Norman for being able to attend our June meeting presentation of **Reflections of Farming** based on his father's diaries, prepared and presented by Audrey Allison and Norman to answer any questions.

## Invited to attend the Eden Mills History Day

Barb Marshall hosted another Eden Mills History Day at the Eden Mills Hall on Sunday February 3 from 1-4 pm. Nassagiweya Historical Society was invited to participate and have a table there! The theme (loosely): Then and Now and Transformation/Change. For example the history of the Eden Mills United Church will be displayed by the Parkers, alongside the repurposed church—Rivermead (owned by Eden Mills Writers Festival). We had to let Barb know if we could come (fingers crossed) and if we wanted one or two tables.

We did attend and had one table> The event was very well attended. There were many inquiries and many faces that we haven't seen for a long time that stopped by to tell us a story or just to say hi.

The event table was attended by Joy Simpson, Audrey Allison, with Charlene Tuersley and Robert Carley there for backup.



## Our Annual Meeting—April 2019

Welcome and Introduction of New Members, by Eli Daigle, chair of meeting,

There is no election of Officers or Directors this year as we are on a two year term, the election will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

If you are interested in becoming a director or officer, please make it known to the current Board.

If you have a topic of interest you would like to present or hear about, please let us know.

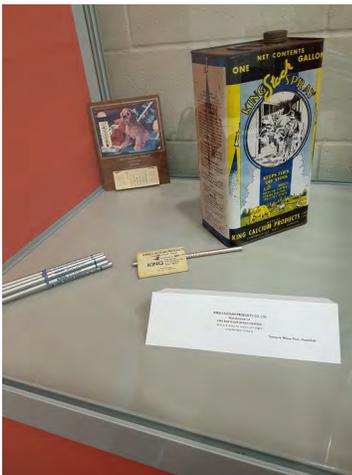
A reminder that our Archives are housed in the Board Room at the Nassagaweya Tennis Center and Community Hall, 401/Guelph Line, and we are there the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. You are welcome to set up an appointment to visit. There will be special days that we will have open houses so the general public will be invited to visit.

The meeting was followed with a presentation “Roads in Nassagaweya” — Wayne Taylor highlighted his time when he was employed by Nassagaweya Township Dept of Roads and then as Regional Gov’t came, Nassagaweya Township amalgamated with the municipal government and became part of the Town of Milton. Wayne’s new employer then became the Town of Milton Dept of Works. Due to the current winter, with lots of snow, seemed very appropriate that he was talking about road conditions then, as people today are talking about current road conditions .

A presentation enjoyed by all.  
Thank you Wayne



## From the Archives:



Thank you to McLaren Brown and Linda Smith for supplying artefacts from the King Calcium Bug Killer Company

New items acquired at the archives was memorabilia from the Orange Hall located in Campbellville.

We thank Charles Parchem for these items and we will take very good care of them.

These pictures show the two sided banner used in the parades.



The Campbellville Loyal Orange Lodge No. 1184 was organized on February 13, 1865. They opened the Orange hall in 1877 The hall was built on Lot 8, Range 4 of Hugh Black’s survey. The lot (1/2th acre) in November 1876, was sold to the trustees in trust for the use of the Loyal Orange Lodge No. 1184 at Campbellville for the sum of \$40. The Lodge closed in August 1971.

In the late 30’s, the building was purchased by King Calcium Products which was managed at that time by William VanSickle and used as the company’s office until 1965, when the business was sold.

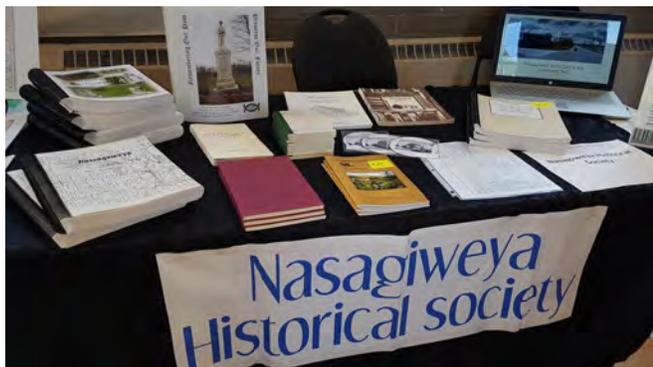


King Calcium Office, Campbellville.

**We need your help with pictures to preserve Nassagaweya.....**

*Thank you Lynn Rogalski for the photos’ you have sent us....*

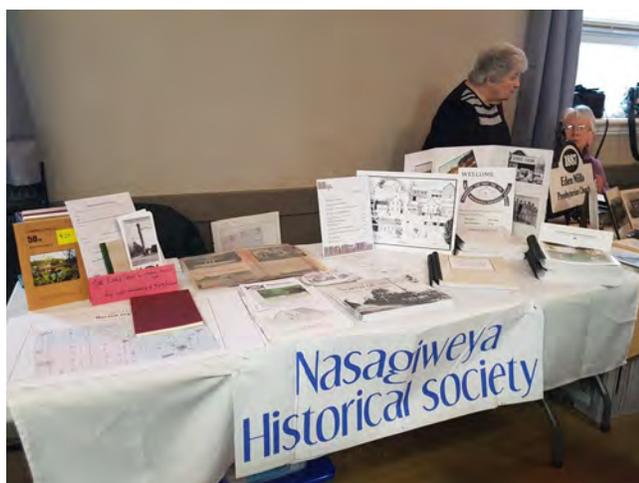
## Vendor Table Communication - we attended .....



Waterdown Annual Book Fair October, 2019



Mohawk Inn—Be Local Buy Local Christmas Craft Market 2019



Eden Mills History Day February 2019

***“Help us save the History of the former Township of Nassagaweya”***

## Understanding the Archives:

Status of the Archives: We receive affiliated rental rates for NTCCH Boardroom and hall, and for advertising on signs and in the Community Services Guide.

We thank the Town of Milton for allowing our group to access the space to retrieve items and work on the archives .

We would like to proceed with monthly open houses, when we are welcoming the

public. We do have to book and of course this is at a chargeable rate.

There is a charge for research and photocopies etc. If you would like us to proceed with research for you, please ask about our basic fees.

If you are member proceeding with your research, please ask for special rates.



**Kean Family Grave**



Photo top and right by Geoff Knight

Our July meeting was a presentation of the **Kean Family Cemetery** prepared by Audrey Allison

In her research to compile information for this presentation Audrey made contact with two granddaughters of Gerald Kean. Carolyn Bird Kwan of BC and Emily Martin from Breslau ON, both researching family history.

Emily attended our meeting and participated in the presentation.



Photo top, right and bottom from NHS archives

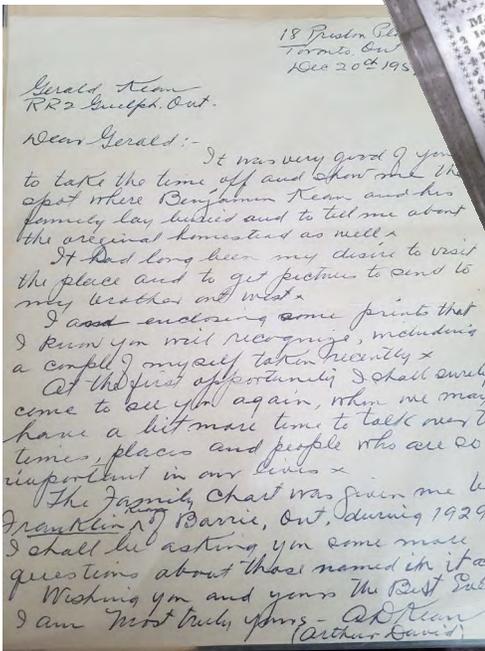


The Kean Family homestead was on Lot 16 Conc 2 East where Tuscan Ridge subdivision is now located. Benjamin Sr. (1795-1880) arrived in Canada 1823 from Bushmills, Antrim County, Northern Ireland. Married Jean (Jane) McKinley (1797-1877) in 1815

Benjamin was issued a land grant in 1826 in Upper Canada



In honour of presentation of the name, the road into the subdivision off the Second Line is called Kean Hill Drive.



We believe that this is the resting place of:  
Daniel Kean (Jan 10, 1831-Jan 29, 1831)  
Mary Kean (Apr 14, 1818—1831)  
Possibly Daniel (Mar 1837-Jul 1865)

**KEAN, JOHN, J.P. (East Simcoe.)**

S. of Mr. Benjamin Kean, by Jane McKinley, both of Antrim, Ire., who came to Can. 1824, and settled in Halton, Ont. B. in town of Bushmill, Antrim, Ire., 4 June, 1820. Ed. in Can. M., 1850, at Brantford, Ont., Miss Mary Jordon, of the Tp. of Norwich. Was Reeve of Orillia and Matchedash, from 1862 to 1867, and Warden of Simcoe, 1868. First returned to Parl., for present seat, at last g.e. An Independent Conservative.—Marchmont.

*Note: Original research information presented to the Town of Milton to preserve the Family Cemetery lots regarding request to sever lots from neighbouring Tuscan Ridge subdivision is held in our archives.*

The presentation is on file at our archives.

**Looking for information:**

December 21st, 2018

Dear Nasagieweya Historical Society,

My name is Harry Duncan Smith and I live in London, UK. I make historical documentaries for the History Channel but i am undertaking some research in a personal capacity for a friend.

I have been asked by this friend to help her track down a certain person - their mother was engaged to this person during the second world war. The person in question was a decorated pilot born in England to Canadian parents. They met in Malta and were engaged but he then (from what my friend has been told by her mother) was sent away to other parts of the Middle East and Europe. He is called Maurice Frederick Newton. For some reason they did not see each other again after the war and my friends mother was never able to get in touch with him.

After much research i have been able to find out that Maurice Frederick Newton moved to Nassagaweya in the 60s and was based there at least in the 80s. He was married to a woman called Bonnie Elva Newton. She died in 1985 but i have found no obituary for Maurice. I have found newspaper articles describing the involvement in a Nassagaweya independence movement in the 1980s. It seems that they have a daughter who was called Elva Elizabeth Newton (though she might have married and have a different surname now).

For the sake of my friend's mother I am trying to find out what happened to Maurice Newton, and whether he is still alive, or has family. I know that it is a thought that has remained with her for a long time.

I realize with these things that my research may not be perfect and the Nasagieweya Maurice Newton may not be the same fighter pilot in WWII, in which case many apologies, but i thought i would make sure and i thought you would be the best people to reach out to. Any help in this regard would be very welcome.

I'm attaching a word document with some pictures of Maurice as a fighter pilot, in the 1960s and in the 1980s.

Best wishes,

Harry

## **Farm Radio International**

(originally *The Developing Countries Farm Radio Network*)

was founded in 1979, 40 years ago by **George Atkins (1917-2009)**, a dedicated and familiar voice as Senior Farm Commentator on CBC's *Radio Noon*, and presence in rural Oakville and the agricultural community throughout Halton County, Nassagaweya, and well beyond.

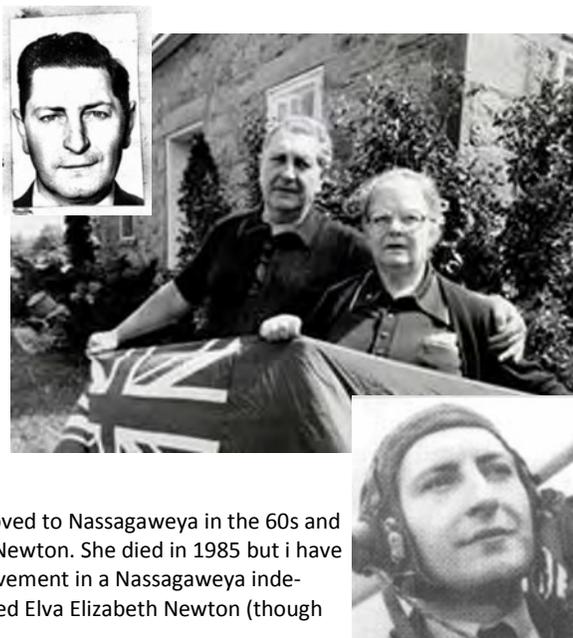
On May 14th George's daughter **Mary** and son-in-law, **Bob Carley**, will share the story of **Farm Radio International (FRI)** as George's passion and vision for the power of radio as the world's most popular mass medium. Mary and Bob toured Ghana, West Africa, and Tanzania, East Africa in 2017.



Special guest a colleague of George Atkins being greeted by NHS member

As a simple, accessible tool for sharing knowledge and giving the listeners voice, FRI programming addresses challenges in agriculture, health, and social realms. It reaches 20+ million small scale farmers through 650+ radio stations/partners in 40 countries in Africa. And it works! "40% of farmers who learn about a new practice through a radio program supported by Farm Radio International end up applying it on their farm" (FRI, 2019). And it all began in Halton County.

Thank you Mary and Bob for a wonderful presentation.



**JOHN2 BELL** (?1)1,2 was born Abt. 1792 in Parish of Drumaul, West Co. Antrim, and died 20.June.1867 in Nassagaweya Twp. Halton Co.. He married (1) **ELIZA ANN AGNEW** Unknown in likely Co. Antrim, Ireland. She was born Abt. 1794 in Co. Antrim, Ireland, and died 27.August.1851 in Nassagaweya Twp. Halton Co.. He married (2) ANN THOMPSON BELL MORTON Unknown in Nassagaweya Twp. Halton Co.. She was born Abt. 1810 in Ireland, and died 18.July.1899 in Nassagaweya Twp. Halton Co..

Notes for JOHN BELL:  
A WEAVER FROM DRUMAU

John Bell was born around 1792 in the Parish of Drumaul, West County Antrim, Ireland. He was a weaver by trade and came to Canada around 1820 with his boyhood friend William Knowles. William was also a weaver and both men had lived next door to each other in Drumaul.

David Bell, John's brother also came to Canada with his family but not until 1854. He arrived in Nassagaweya, stayed for a time and then went on to Huron Township in Bruce County.

The Bells were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, originally from Scotland and likely arrived during the Plantation period in Ireland.

After arriving in Canada around 1820, John Bell and William Knowles went to Bertie Township in Fort Erie where they rented land for a time. Later both men moved to Hamesville or Nelsonville in Nelson Township about 1820/1825. It was in 1829 that John and William along with their families settled in Nassagaweya Township. One can assume that John's older brother David Bell was also with them at this time in Nassagaweya.

John purchased the west half of Lot 19 in the 6th Concession of Nassagaweya. Fifty acres of this land was a free grant and John had only to pay the fees that were owed against it. He bought the other half of this United Empire Loyalist lot for \$60.00.

After clearing out the underbrush, John planted potatoes in among the trees and so he had his first crop in.

William Knowles took the West half of Lot 18 and the two were Neighbours again.

By 1841 John Bell had all of Lots 19 and 20 in the 6th Concession and in 1856 the Crown granted him 200 acres east and west of Lot 20 in Nassagaweya Township.

The name Agnew is an Irish Name and is listed in Edward MacLysaght's Guide to Irish Names, 1964. Agnew or O'Gnimh was "a literary family under the O'Neill whose name was anglicized to O'Gneeve. Some Agnews also of Ulster, are Norman(d'Agnew) descent."

John married Aliza Ann Agnew possibly around 1814/1815 in County Antrim, Ireland. Aliza's parents names are not known, but it can be established that she had at least three brothers - John Agnew who resided in Nelson Township, William Agnew also of Nelson Township and David Agnew who first lived in Nassagaweya Township and then moved to Nelson Township.

Aliza Ann also had the following sisters - Mary Jane Agnew born c1798 in County Antrim and Margaret Agnew born c1820 in Antrim.

Mary Jane married John Carnochan and they lived in Nassagaweya Township. She died in 1888 and her husband John died in 1847. They are both buried in Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Haltonville(Nassagaweya Township).

Her other sister Margaret may have come to Canada as an infant or she may have arrived sometime later. Margaret married Joseph Lynn another Antrim native. Margaret died in 1902 and her husband Joseph died in 1905. Both are buried in Campbellville Cemetery, Halton County.

Aliza's older brother William Agnew and his wife Mary are on the 1852 census for Nelson Township. William was born c1780 in Antrim and died in 1855 Nelson Township. Mary Agnew died in 1861 and is buried along with her husband in Kilbride Pioneer Cemetery.

John Agnew was also of Nelson Township. John and his wife Ann Thompson often travelled to Nassagaweya to visit the Bell relatives. Nassagaweya family Historian, Joe Henderson, related the following story to me concerning John Agnew's last visit to see his sister Aliza Ann: " There was a spring storm in Nassagaweya and it was getting late. John Agnew wanted to get back to Nelson and see to his farm animals. His wife Ann Thompson wanted to stay for supper with the Bells. John left alone on horseback intending to stop at Jean Agnew's place in Nelson on his way home. The storm was bad with heavy wind and rain. John was struck and killed instantly by a tree that blew down on him. John's death was recorded in the Methodist Papers - 1830-1857, 14 June 1854.

Ann Thompson, born in Ireland(likely Antrim) in 1811 lived to be eighty-eight. She outlived three husbands. After her husband, John Agnew died in 1854, Ann married her widowed brother-in-law John Bell. John died in 1867 and Ann then married William John Morton Senior after his wife Martha Bell died in 1869. Ann had three daughters by John Agnew. She died of old age in July 1899 in Nassagaweya Township. Ann undoubtedly was a survivor and a strong woman. There is a remote possibility that Bell was Ann's maiden name and that Thompson was her first husband's name. She may have been a cousin of John and David's family. To date I have no proof of this, only a gut feeling and a great deal of respect for this woman. I don't know where she is buried or even if she has a stone. She likely is buried in Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Martha Bell, first wife of William John Morton, was a sister of John Bell and David Bell.

John Bell and Aliza Ann belonged to Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church. Indeed they were one of the first parishioners and John was an elder there until his death in 1867. Church sermons were given in English and Gallic.

Mar 15 2019

I was talking to someone on Facebook about information on my family who were early settlers in the Nasagiweya area.

Their name was Smith and they were Selkirk settlers who came to Nasagiweya around 1819. They lived on Lot 2, 4th Concession. There was John and his wife Mary, sons Alexander, Allan, Neil, John and daughters Jean(Jane) and Mary.

I am interested in Neil specifically. I have read the history of Nasagiweya, in which the Smiths are mentioned and the current owner of Neil's house has been in contact with me. I am looking to flesh out the Smith family history, as I live in BC and can only access records that are online. Any information is appreciated.

Neil was married to Jane Reid and they had 13(?) children. Their farm remained in the family until the 1940's.

Thank you for taking the time to check into it for me!

Kindest regards,

Suzanne Smith

## Nassagaweya

A HISTORY OF CAMPBELLVILLE AND SURROUNDING AREA; ITS LAND AND PEOPLE

### Lot 2 Concession 4 East Half (4th Line)

Neil Smith, a native of Islay Argyleshire, Scotland, who had come to Canada in the early 1800's with his brothers, Allan and John, settled on this half of Lot 2 in the Fourth Concession, and registered the Crown deed in 1840. Here he built a cosy log house. Later it was enlarged and eventually consisted of a living-room with a large fireplace, 2 bedrooms downstairs and a couple of bedrooms upstairs.

Neil and his wife raised their **4** children on the farm:

**Mary Jane**, (Mrs. William Patterson) of Nassagaweya, farmed Lot 1 Con 5. **Annie**, (Mrs. William Cunningham). **Isaac** who inherited the farm from his father in 1866, was a very handy man and the upstairs of what was called "the shop", was his workshop and held his many tools. He built a stone house across the lane from the site of the log house. The downstairs of "the shop" was used to store the barrels of meat that was curing. In later years the old log house was used as a hen-house. Isaac sold to his brother-in-law, John George King, in 1872. **Margaret**, (Mrs. John George King) lived on the Smith homestead. John and his wife, Margaret (Smith) had 5 children: **Eliza**, (Mrs. George Wilson) — 8 children; **Robert** married, first Florence Cornal, then Maud Dunlop; **Maggie**, (Mrs. Ben Hancock) — 7 children; **Mary** (Mrs. Harry Coulson) — 3 children; **Walter**. Margaret King died in 1885, at the age of 33, and John remarried.

He and his second wife, Mary Hewson, whose father ran the Abrey Mill, had 6 children:

**Charles** married Bella Harris and had the King Calcium Bug Killer plant. They had a son Stanley who was ordained into the

Anglican Church in 1954. Erland married Annie Holmes from Lot 10 Con 4, has 3 children; Kenneth, Shirley and Brian. **Alice** married George Stokes, a native of Nassagaweya, and had 3 children and lived on Lot 2 Con 5. **Annie** married Wilbert Darby and farmed in north Nassagaweya. They had 2 children. **Harry** married Vera Powell, a native of Nelson Township— 3 sons. **Wallace** married Jean Border and after her untimely death, married Marjorie Border, her sister. They lived on Lot 13 Con 3. Wallace took over his father's farm in 1927 and later moved to the farm in Concession 3 which he purchased in 1940.

The farm on Lot 2 Con 4 was sold to Tom Howard and he sold it to Edwin Parsons in 1945.



*Stone house built by Isaac King, sits high on a hill up a long lane*

Looking for photo of Abrey Mill, Lot 2 Conc 4E

could not accomplish his purpose and so these men were left to shift for themselves. The Smith's, consisting of father and four sons, took canoes and paddled their own way down Lake Superior, remained three months on Drummond's Island, then came to Pentanguishene, thence to Toronto. There was the father, whose name was John, the sons Allan, Neil, John and Alexander. Neil and John, Jr., came to Nasagiweya about the year 1824, and settled on Lot 2, in the 4th Concession; Neil on the east-half and John on the west-half. In the year 1838 John Black had the west corner of John Smith's lot, fifty acres, and in 1840 this last fifty is divided between him and the father. In 1842 John Smith, Sr., was assessed for his twenty-five acres, and John Black for the other twenty-five, and John Smith, Jr., was not on the roll. In 1843 Donald Black was down for the part formerly assessed to the old man Smith, and John Black for the other seventy-five. And in the next year Daniel Hunter had the south fifty acres and John Black the west fifty acres, and so it remains in their families to the present time. Neil Smith retained his land during his life and left it to his son. In the year 1842 John Smith, the father, had gone to live with his son-in-law, Robert Ramsay, and while assisting to roll up a log on a small building which they were erecting, the log slipped and rolled back injuring the old man from which he died, aged eighty-five years. Allan Smith came here in 1832, and took up the whole of the 1st Lot, in the 4th Concession, which he held until 1845, when his son, George, was assessed for the west-half until 1851, and I think he died in that year. Allan Smith remained on his land all the remainder of his life and left it to the family, who sold it to Henry Stingle, who still owns it.

Platt sold to James McDonald about three years ago, who still owns it.

Henry Winter sold the east-half of Lot 22, in the 4th Concession, to Neil McPhedran about the year 1831, and his son Peter went on to it (see history of the McPhedran's on another page).

Nicholas Winter was owner of Lot 23, in the 4th Concession, sold to John Youart in 1831. This lot, or a part of it, is still connected with the Youart estate. Winter married Trudgen's ~~youngest~~ daughter. She died soon after and was the first person buried. She Ebenezer.

Solomon Winter owned the west-half of Lot 22, in the 4th Concession, sold it to John Sherwood in 1832. This was the last of the family in Nasagiweya. They were U. E. Loyalists, and as such, got their land for nothing and made but little of it. They were said to be nice, kind-hearted people, but lacked energy.

Joseph Harris is on this first roll for Lot 25, in the 6th Concession. I know not where he came from, but he must have been here early as he had twenty-five acres cleared at that time, that being the largest clearing in the township. He sold to John McKinnon in 1833. He built the first frame barn in the township, old Tom Corner was the carpenter. The barn is still standing. Harris went to Nelson when he sold here and spent the remainder of his days there. John McKinnon lived on this farm and died about six years ago. His only son, John, still owns the farm.

The Smith Family—The Smith's on the mountain, as they were then designated, were early here, but the dates I cannot ascertain. They are supposed to have left Scotland about 1814, with Lord Selkirk, for the Hudson Bay Territory, but when they got there Selkirk

## History of Kings Highway 401 surrounding KOA

Good evening, I hope you are all having a great day! I am emailing on behalf of the Toronto West KOA. We are looking to create some historically correct posters that can educate guests about the 401 and it's construction, etc. I was wondering if your team had any information we could use that is relevant to our location (lots of the online history we can find for the highway is for Toronto and Cambridge).

We are also interested in any history of when the campground was first built and perhaps what it was before it was a campground?

We would of course give you credit for any information or photos that we use. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this email. All the best and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

(Photo courtesy of Ontario Ministry of Transportation -  
© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2012)



Hwy 401 near the Wellington-Halton Boundary west of Campbellville (1974)



1<sup>st</sup> Line over 401— Railway Tracks go under—dead end 2<sup>nd</sup> Line Hwy 401 near the First Line Overpass west of Campbellville (1974)



Construction of 401 at Wellington/Halton Boundary (c.1960)



Hwy 401 Guelph Line looking east (taken from bridge)

1960-11-12



Hwy 401 near the Fifth Line (Appleby Line) Underpass west of Milton (1974)

Hwy 401 Guelph Line (Mohawk Inn will be on left side of picture)



Hwy 401 near the Kelso Conservation Area west of Milton (1974)

Guelph Line Interchange on Hwy 401 at Campbellville. - This interchange reconfigured several times – once prior to 1978, in 1978 and again in 2008.

The first piece of property on land registry for Preliminary Route Hwy 401 was Oct 17 1955.

Some properties effected were owned by Eaton and Hull, Lot 8 Conc. 2, looking for more information on property involved of both current KOA and 401



Hwy 401 near the Fourth Line (Walkers Line) Underpass east of Campbellville (1974)



## Cindy Lunau presentation of Nassagaweya at Milton Historical Meeting September Meeting.

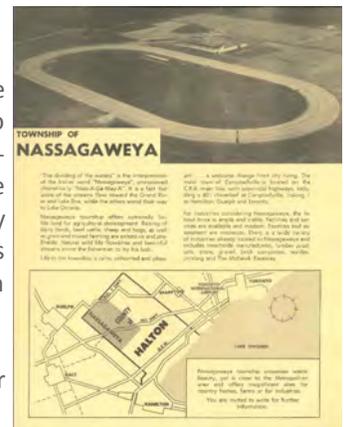
The former Township of Nassagaweya was the focus of the September meeting of Milton Historical Society when Nasagiweya Historical Society members Cindy Lunau guided the audience through an insightful then-and-now audio-visual presentation prepared by Audrey Allison. Misses Allison and Lunau took those gathered at the historic Waldie Blacksmith Shop through the modest beginnings of the Township in 1819 to the present, showing local landmarks then-and-now. Also shared the history of the hamlets and villages that made up the former Township, such as Brookville, Campbellville, Darbyville, Eden Mills (now in Wellington County), Guelph Junction, Haltonville, Moffat and Knatchbull.



## John Summers, Manager & Curator of Halton Region Heritage Services

"The Stuff We Save (and the Stuff We Don't). It is interesting to see how different landscape and the communities that comprised the county looked then and now. What does printed material represents to us as historians and as people who document Halton's heritage. When you get a brochure and buy a ticket, it's just a way to make your journey. 107 years later, however, that same ticket and brochure could be the centerpieces of an exhibit about the sinking of the *Titanic*. It's easy to imagine these Halton County promotional materials being printed and distributed and then, a few years later, when the office is cleaned out, being tossed out because they're no longer useful and yet now they're interesting enough that we take time to write about them .

This raises one of the most important questions for a museum—how do we know what to add to our collection



## MOHAWK INN TO CLOSE NEXT MONTH

HERB GARbutt  
hgarbutt@metroland.com

A notable local business is closing its doors next month, but vows to come back bigger and better.

The Mohawk Inn and Conference Centre on Guelph Line will close Dec. 15, as owners Shawn and Bridget Saulnier prepare to replace the 52-year-old building with a new hotel and conference facility.

"We want to do what we've been doing, but bring it up a notch," Shawn Saulnier said. "We want to make it more contemporary, something that fits better for the fastest-growing community in Canada."

Saulnier said he expects it to take about two years to complete the project: 18 months for construction and then another six months to get it ready for guests.

The Saulniers, who were named the chamber of commerce's entrepreneurs of the year in 2014, purchased the business nine years ago. They con-

sidered numerous options, including renovating and building additions to add to the existing 30 rooms, but in the end decided a new building was the best solution.

"Putting up a new hotel we'll be able to have all the modern amenities and still have a high-quality food and beverage program," he said. "We'll be able to create a green facility. We'll have more rooms and larger rooms, larger meeting halls."

Saulnier said the plans for the new building were delayed while they waited to find out who would be taking over Mohawk Raceway's casino operation, located just a kilometre north on Guelph Line. Four different groups were vying to run the operation and the Saulniers wanted to make sure their plans complemented what the new operators were doing at the casino.

The casino operation was awarded to Great Canadian Gaming.

"They're more focused on the gaming experience,"



The Mohawk Inn and Conference Centre in Campbellville will close Dec. 15. Its owners plan to replace the existing building with a larger, more modern conference centre.

Saulnier said. "We were able to finally fine-tune our plans once we knew that."

Saulnier said among the features that will be added will be a family-entertainment centre and an outdoor ropes course.

"It's something that is fun for kids, but it's also a very good activity for

adults," he said. "A lot of conventions are looking for experiential events that people can take part in when they are doing activities to build teams and build trust."

A farewell to the Mohawk Inn will be held Dec. 15 following the Campbellville-Santa Claus parade.

**"Putting up a new hotel we'll be able to have all the modern amenities and still have a high-quality food and beverage program."**

— Shawn Saulnier



## The Gnarled Branches of my Family Tree from Argyll to Nassagaweya and beyond.

Heather McTavish Taylor lives in Milton with her husband and two daughters. She became interested in her family tree 10 years ago when she found a family history book that was in a box from her parent's basement. She hasn't stopped looking for her ancestors since that time. Heather retired from a Marketing career in the packaged goods industry in 2013 and created a Genealogy business called Dig Ancestry Services. Her goal is to help people discover their own family history and enjoys coaching them through all of the proper genealogical steps and introducing them to new tools and resources. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Genealogical Society and enjoys writing for and editing their quarterly publication - Families.

October 8th, our very own member Heather, shared the ongoing struggle she has had sorting out her Nassagaweya ancestors, who is who, when they have the same common name, around the same time period, close in location to each other. Thanks for the presentation Heather, we appreciate hearing that we have to research and verify the facts. But where oh where are the facts.

Heather has also been a tremendous help at our Archives.

### Upcoming Meetings 2020:

Mar 10th —Irish Stew Dinner

April 14th—Annual Meeting followed by Video of History of Campbellville and surrounding area

May 12th— Cindy Lunau—presentation of Nassagaweya

June 9th —Sheila Hobeck Genealogy Travel adventures

July 114th—How to search our archives

August 11th —BBQ

September 8th —Bill and Marilyn Coxes Log House restoration

October 13th —Dave Cook—Fading History

November 10th—We remember

December 8th—Christmas Potluck

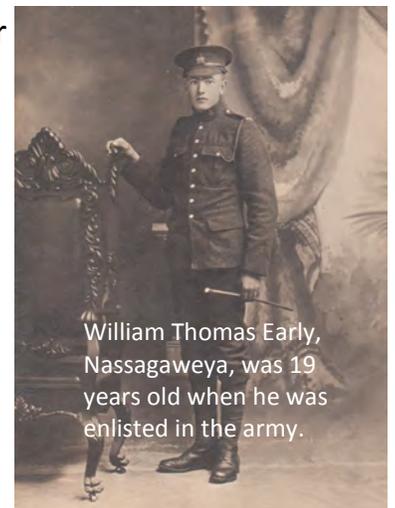


Tim and Sandra Gray (nee Early)

Tim Gray spoke at our November meeting on Sandra's (nee Early) ancestor **William Thomas Early and his time served in WWI**

A very picturesque and informative presentation .

They also brought pictures and artifacts and documents belonging to Family to share with us.



William Thomas Early, Nassagaweya, was 19 years old when he was enlisted in the army.



16. MILITARY CAMP. SANDLING. HANFAL.

A copy of their presentation is documented in our archives.

Thank you Tim and Sandra.

(pictures courtesy of Tim and Sandra Gray)

# Exile in Ontario: How the Russian royal family came to an end

Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna went from living in a palace to dying above a barbershop

By [Chris Bateman](#) - Published on October 16, 2017

*Printed as submitted*

On November 24, 1960, after three centuries in power, the Romanov line came to an end above a barber shop in the east end of Toronto.

It was there, in a small apartment belonging to a friend, that Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna died, a continent and an ocean away from her homeland. She represented the last direct link to the Romanov family, which had ruled Russia from 1613 until the revolution of 1917. The fall of the Romanovs and the execution of much of the royal family forced her dramatic escape from Russia — and put her on the long road to Ontario.

Grand Duchess Olga was born on June 14, 1882, to Tsar Alexander III, Emperor of All Russia, and Empress Maria Feodorovna, the sister of Queen Alexandra of England. The youngest of four, she was the last Russian “purple baby” — a child born to a reigning monarch. (Her eldest brother, Nicholas, the heir to the throne, and brothers Alexander, George, Michael, and sister, Xenia, were born before their father became tsar.)

As a child, Olga lived surrounded by opulence. She had hundreds of servants at her disposal in the sprawling Gatchina Palace, located near St. Petersburg. “I used to climb 80 steps to kiss my parents goodnight, and then 80 more to go to my own room,” she told her Canadian biographer, Ian Vorres, in the 1950s, during one of her few in-depth interviews.

When her father died in 1894, Olga’s eldest brother, Nicholas, became Emperor of All Russia and the head of a monarchy that was increasingly unpopular. Nicholas II’s early reign was immediately marred by disaster — during his coronation in 1896, more than 1,300 people died in a crush to receive commemorative mugs filled with candy.

When she was 19, Olga married Duke Peter of Oldenburg, a man 14 years her senior. There were rumours that Peter was gay and that the marriage was one of convenience for him. Although the union wasn’t a particularly happy one, she enjoyed life on Peter’s estate — at least until she met Nikolai Kulikovsky at a military parade in 1903. The blond-haired, blue-eyed cavalryman was a friend of her brother Michael. “It was love at first sight,” she told Vorres. The pair, who were the same age, began a love affair that caused a minor scandal in Russia. Eventually, Nicholas II annulled Olga’s unconsummated marriage to Peter, making it possible for the two to marry. It was to be one of his last acts as Emperor.

In 1917, Nicholas was forced to abdicate, and communist revolutionaries later seized control of the country. The royal family was placed under house arrest near Yekaterinburg, where they were executed and buried in unmarked graves in 1918.



Olga and Nikolai were lucky at first. Olga, who had been working as a Red Cross nurse since the outbreak of the First World War, was stationed in Kiev. The two attempted to flee south by train, but were intercepted between Yalta and Sevastopol in Crimea. “We were actually saved by a technicality,” Olga recalled. “Communist headquarters in Sevastopol and Communist headquarters in Yalta could not decide whose responsibility it was to chop off our heads.”

While the couple was under house arrest, Olga gave birth to their first child, Tikhon; she was pregnant with her second when she and Nikolai stole away one night, headed for the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk. They avoided detection by moving from town to town under the cover of darkness, sleeping in rented accommodation, spare rooms, an abandoned monastery — anywhere that was safe, even if just for a few nights. Guri was born on the road. “When I looked at that pale bundle in my arms, I never thought he would survive,” she said.

Despite the constant threat of capture, the royals managed to escape Russia aboard a crowded refugee ship in 1919. They travelled to Turkey, then to Denmark, the home of Olga’s mother, Dowager Empress Marie. There, Olga and Nikolai lived in a small villa and for 25 years ran a dairy farm, safe from the Soviet authorities.

The couple might have remained in Denmark for the rest of their lives, but after the Second World War, Soviet authorities pressured the Danish government to make them leave. Sir Edward Peacock, the Canadian-born director of the Bank of England and a friend of King George V, Olga’s first cousin, arranged for their move to Canada.

In 1948, Olga and Nikolai, both 66 years old, and the families of their two adult children sailed to Halifax aboard the SS Empress of Canada. “I immediately felt at home in Canada,” she said. “The vast open spaces remind me of Russia and gave me a feeling of comfort.”



Anna Anderson, claimed to be Olga's niece, Anastasia.

Olga found Anderson's claims, which were seriously investigated, particularly upsetting. "It is a tragic joke," she said. "And what is most tragic of all is that the joke will continue because people like mystery." (None of the imposters were who they claimed to be. The bodies of the Romanovs were discovered and forensically identified in the 1990s and 2000s.)

Although Olga lived modestly, she maintained contact with European royalty and aristocracy. She dined with earls, countesses, duchesses, and princesses when they visited Canada, and received gifts from Finland, Denmark, and Japan on her name day and at Easter and Christmas. When Queen Elizabeth II — her first cousin twice removed — paid a royal visit to Canada in 1959, she invited Olga aboard the HMY Britannia in Toronto.

Though she was prominent in social circles, Olga remained private and seldom gave interviews. She never went back to Russia, either. "Even if I could return I wouldn't. You would never see me again," she said.

In 1960, Olga became unwell and was admitted to the Toronto General Hospital. After her condition stabilized, she was released into the care of Konstantin Martemianoff and his wife, Sinaida, who lived on Gerrard Street East in Toronto. Aply, Konstant was a former officer of the Imperial Guard, the unit once responsible for protecting the Russian royal family.

Grand Duchess Olga died in the Martemianoff's home on November 24, 1960, at the age of 79. Her body lay in state in an open casket at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral on Glen Morris Avenue, where her funeral was held November 30. Wreaths and condolences arrived from around the world, but few foreign dignitaries or consular officials attended the service — the optics during the Cold War would have been too problematic.

"If I were invited as a private individual I would have attended the funeral with pleasure," said Stathis Mitsopoulos, the Greek consul in Canada. "However, I cannot attend as an official representative of my country since my government has recognized the Communist regime."

Before being lowered into the ground at York Cemetery, her casket was draped in the flag of Imperial Russia and sprinkled with a handful of Russian soil.

Despite the bloody murder of her family and the forced estrangement from her country, Olga never appeared dour or sullen. She joked often, and in her old age, her face was furrowed with deep wrinkles and laughter lines.

"I always laugh," she said, "for if I ever start crying I will never stop."

*Chris Bateman is a freelance journalist whose work has appeared in the National Post, Spacing, and Toronto Life.*

Olga and Nikolai settled on a 200-acre cattle farm near Campbellville, Ontario, roughly halfway between Milton and Guelph, and continued working as they had in Denmark. The locals, it seems, were relaxed about their new royal neighbours. "The prosperous farmers and their wives have tactfully ignored [the] titles of the past," reported the *Globe and Mail* in 1950. "[They] treated Col. Kulikovsky and his lady as they would have treated any other newcomers."

While Nikolai worked the farm, Olga spent considerable time painting — many of her countryside scenes and still lifes were featured in a well-received exhibition at Eaton's College Street store in 1951. She knew her famous name drove interest in her work, and she unashamedly exploited what she called the "snob appeal" of her paintings. She painted what art dealers told her would sell, and her signature was always prominently displayed.

In his 70s, after 10 years on the Campbellville farm, Nikolai grew increasingly frail, so the couple moved to a small five-room cottage in Cooksville. The house, which still stands, was "crammed with paintings, flower pots, an endless array of faded photographs and other mementos of Imperial days," her biographer reported. A large painting of Olga's father, Tsar Alexander III, dominated the living room.

Nikolai Kulikovsky died at home in 1958, at the age of 76. "I was in a way relieved to see him go and escape from his suffering," Olga said.

Now alone, the Grand Duchess filled her days painting and tending a small vegetable patch in the yard. Her children and grandchildren visited often. Tikhon worked for the Ontario Highways Department in the Mississauga area, and Guri lived in Ottawa.

A steady stream of letters — up to 30 a day — kept her busy. "I insist on replying to all of them, be they from kings or crackpots," she said. Both were represented in her mailbox. At the time, the bodies of the Romanovs remained undiscovered, and fraudsters played on the possibility they might have survived the executioner. In Denmark and in Canada, several people claimed to be members of her brother's murdered family. A British Columbia man insisted he was Alexei, Olga's nephew, and another well-known imposter,

**Definition of Pioneer**

- : a person who helps create or develop new ideas, methods, etc.
- : someone who is one of the first people to move to and live in a new area
- : to help create or develop (new ideas, methods, etc.)
- : to be a pioneer in the development of (something)

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

MEMBERSHIP FEE ..... \$20      NEW       RENEWAL

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Permission given to send events, notices, forwarded matters of interest and newsletters by email.

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (        )                      Method of Payment      Cheque                       Cash

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Throughout the year we have seven (7) meetings relating to history of the township and three social evenings. March is usually an Irish Stew Dinner, a BBQ in August and we finish our season with a Potluck dinner in December.

We welcome new members anytime during the year. We are enthusiastic to meet with anyone that has an keen interest in Nassagaweya Township..

**NASAGIWEYA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 106  
Campbellville,  
ON L0P 1B0  
[info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com)  
[www.nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com](http://www.nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com)  
[www.facebook.com/nasagiweyahistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/nasagiweyahistoricalsociety)  
*Like us on Facebook and join our Group Page*

DO YOU HAVE A PROPERTY THAT HAS HISTORY TO IT, OR DO YOU WONDER IF THERE IS SIGNIFICANCE, PLEASE LET US KNOW..... DO YOU KNOW OF A STRUCTURE, AND WONDER WHAT WAS THERE, OR WHEN ..... WE WANT TO DOCUMENT/PRESERVE AS MUCH AS WE CAN!! WE DON'T WANT TO LOOSE ANY HISTORY OF NASSAGAWEYA TO FIRE, DEMO OR ABANDONMENT.

**BBQ August 2019**

Hosted by Audrey Kitching  
**Thank you Audrey**, so much appreciated and always a delight to have this annual event in your backyard.



## Fire at abandoned house south of Rockwood under investigation

Halton Region police investigators look for possible links to string of fires near Guelph

News Jul 12, 2017 by [Chris Seto](#) Guelph Mercury

*Printed as copied from original newspaper articles*

An abandoned farmhouse south of Rockwood may be the latest addition to a growing list of suspicious fires in Wellington County and surrounding areas.

On Tuesday morning, Halton police and Halton Hills Fire Department responded to a house fire on ***Guelph Line, just north of Side Road 25.***

Officers said the fire was spotted by a passerby who called it in. The 1.5-storey stone house was severely damaged in the blaze as flames shot out the roof, windows and front door, police said.

No injuries were reported in the fire and the office of the Ontario Fire Marshal has been contacted.

Police said investigators will be looking at possible links between this abandoned house fire and 20 other suspicious fires under investigation by Wellington County OPP.

Since last fall, a growing number of suspicious fires have been reported in Wellington County and in Halton Region. Most of these fires have been at abandoned buildings. No injuries have been reported at any of the fires and no official connection has been made.

OPP investigators are working with Halton police on this list, but neither service was immediately able to provide details as to where their investigations sit.

### **Abandoned rural Milton home destroyed in early morning fire**

News Jul 11, 2017 by [Melanie Hennessey](#) Milton

Halton Regional Police are investigating after a vacant rural home went up in flames Tuesday morning (July 11) in Nassagaweya.

The Milton Fire Department responded to the blaze shortly after 6 a.m. on Guelph Line, north of 25 Sideroad.



“When I got there it (the fire) was already through the roof,” Milton Fire Chief Dave Pratt told the Champion. “It’s a shame as it looks like another heritage building has been lost.”

The firefighters drew water from a tanker truck to knock down the flames. By the end, Pratt said only the stone walls of the structure remained.

Milton Fire and Halton Regional Police remained on scene throughout the morning to investigate the blaze, which Pratt said he suspects is tied to the other suspicious fires that have plagued the surrounding rural area since last year.

With no electricity running to the home and no lightning or bad weather, Pratt said it’s his opinion that the only ignition source could be “foul play.”