



Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting Agenda

November 14, 2024, 5:00 pm

Location: Essex Municipal Building, 33 Talbot Street South

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Please contact the Clerk’s Office at clerks@essex.ca or 519-776-7336 extension 1100 or 1101.

Pages

1. Call to Order

2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations (comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples), and of the Huron-Wendat Peoples. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

4. Adoption of Published Agenda

4.1 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting Agenda for November 14, 2024

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the published agenda for the November 14, 2024 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting be adopted as presented / amended.

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Minutes for October 24, 2024

1

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the minutes of the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee meeting held October 24, 2024 adopted as circulated.

6. New Business

6.1 Delegations

6.1.1 102 Talbot Street South

6

- Notice of Objection

6.1.2 400 County Road 13

8

- Notice of Objection

6.1.3 Ferriss Cemetery

10

- Notice of Objection

6.2 2025 Heritage Meeting Schedule

11

6.2.1 Proposed Meeting Schedule

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the 2025 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Schedule be adopted as presented / amended.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1 Greater Marketing and Public Education about Heritage - Ongoing

7.2 Official Plan Update - Ongoing

7.3 Heritage Grant Program - Ongoing

7.4 Heritage Designation and Interpretive Plaque Program - Ongoing

7.4.1 Update on the Snider House Plaque - 179 County Road 50

12

7.5 Listing and Designating Properties and Heritage Districts - Ongoing

7.5.1 Update on Rio Theatre - 10 Talbot Street South

7.5.2 Update on 136 County Road 50 West

7.6 Cemeteries - Ongoing

7.7 Studies and Master Plans - Ongoing

7.8 Heritage Walking Tour and Digital Component - Ongoing

7.9 Cultural Master Plan - Ongoing

7.10 Historically Significant Name Registry - Ongoing

7.11 Cultural Heritage, Indigenous History - Ongoing

7.11.1 Notice of November 28th HEIRS Meeting (CaldwellFirst Nations)

13

7.12 Barn Quilts - Ongoing

7.13 Heritage Week - Ongoing

7.13.1 Update on Theme

7.13.2 Update on Proposed Events and Activities

8. Adjournment

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the meeting be adjourned at _____.

9. Future Meetings



The Corporation of the Town of Essex

Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2024, 5:00 pm

Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre, 243 McAfee Street

Present: Chair - Basden, Perry
Councillor - Matyi, Jason, Ward 3, Vice Chair
Member - Baldwin, Jacqueline
Member - Connie Clarkson
Councillor - Hammond, Rodney, Ward 4
Member - Kokovai, Richard
Member - Kowtiuk, Laurie
Member - Matyi Linda

Absent: Member - Peters, Grant

Also Present: Rita Jabbour, Manager, Planning Services
Cheyenne Mailloux, Heritage and Planning Intern
Marsha Buchta, Recording Secretary

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Please contact the Clerk's Office at clerks@essex.ca or 519-776-7336 extension 1100 or 1101.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Vice-Chair, Jason Matyi, arrived at 5:15 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations (comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples), and of the Huron-Wendat Peoples. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest noted at this time.

4. Adoption of Published Agenda

4.1 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting Agenda for October 24, 2024

EMHC24-10-65

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

That the published agenda for the October 24, 2024 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1 Essex Municipal Heritage Committee Minutes for September 26, 2024

EMHC24-10-66

Moved By Linda Matyi

Seconded By Connie Clarkson

That the minutes of the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee meeting held September 26, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. New Business

6.1 Heritage Week 2025

Ms. Rita Jabbour advised Heritage week is designated the third week of February. A theme has not been released yet; but the Town usually creates one for themselves. Ms. Jabbour and Ms. Mailloux suggested Back to the Future as it incorporates the idea of creating the New Draft Official Plan while utilizing cultural characteristics and heritage areas of the past. Information sessions may be held to advise newly designated property owners of incentives available.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1 Greater Marketing and Public Education about Heritage - Ongoing

7.1.1 Update on Tour Date Response - Snider House 179 County Road 50 West

Katherine and William Dowling have closed the Snider House for the Fall and Winter. They will be pleased to offer a Tour in the Spring. Aligning the Tour with the plaque unveiling would be preferable.

7.2 Official Plan Update - Ongoing

Ms. Jabbour informed the Committee that they have extended the deadline for comments on the Official Plan project. There will be a second phase so we can get more feedback from the public. Administration is looking to create cultural heritage policies that go above and beyond provincial legislation. We need to engage with our indigenous communities.

7.3 Heritage Grant Program

7.3.1 Feedback Discussion - Revised Heritage Grant Application submitted to Committee for review

Chair Perry Basden provided a brief overview of the Amherstburg and Kingsville Heritage Grant By-laws stating they align with the documents provided to the Committee for feedback. The Heritage Grant program does allow funds for restoration projects, but residents were having trouble obtaining quotes. The tax rebate program may work in

conjunction with restoration. The details of a Heritage Rebate program can be finalized at a later date.

EMHC24-10-67

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

That Administration develops a Heritage Grant Rebate program, to provide incentives to Heritage Designated or Listed property owners.

Carried

7.4 Heritage Designation and Interpretive Plaque Program - Ongoing

7.4.1 Snider House - 179 County Road 50 West Plaque Update

Ms. Jabbour is developing the plaque write up which will be submitted to Kathy and William Dowling initially and then to the Committee. Ms. Dowling also submitted a Heritage Farm application, qualifying them as a Platinum Heritage Farm.

7.5 Listing and Designating Properties and Heritage Districts - Ongoing

7.5.1 Update on Heritage Inventory

Ms. Jabbour advised of Notices of Objection received. Administration suggests inviting property owners to a Heritage Committee meeting to discuss information on designation and address their concerns. The next Heritage meeting is November 28, 2024; however, this will not allow enough time to draft a report to Council for consideration, with the Notice of Intention to Designate 120-day deadline. We would need to have the November meeting earlier.

Mr. Richard Kokovai advised the Committee of another property that should be investigated. The Rio Theatre. 10 Talbot Street South

EMHC24-10-68

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Jacqueline Baldwin

That the November Heritage Committee Meeting be held on either November 14 or 21, 2024 based on results of a poll to be sent to Committee Members.

Carried

EMHC24-10-69

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Laurie Kowtiuk

That the property at 10 Talbot Street South in Essex, previously known as the Rio Theatre, be investigated for the cultural and historical significance attributes.

Carried

7.5.1.1 Notice of Objection - 102 Talbot Street South Update

The owners at 102 Talbot Street South are objecting the Notice citing concerns of Indigenous consultation, settler focus, restrictions placed on property / financial burden and future municipal planning goals.

7.5.1.2 Notice of Objection - 400 County Road 13

The owners of the property are objecting cultural heritage values listed in the letter as alterations have been made to the property. The verandah porch and decorative pillars were added in the 1990's. The roof line was changes from a flat roof in the 1950's and the shuttered windows were replaced within the last few years and decorative plastic shutters have been added. A large renovation was completed in the 2000s changing 1/3 of the exterior of the building from cement cinderblocks to reclaimed brick.

7.5.1.3 Notice of Objection - Ferriss Cemetery

Owners objected Notice of Intention to Designate citing concerns of lack of consultation with owners, deficiencies in research and documentary evidence and negative impacts of designation on property. Concerns with trespassing were noted if property is promoted as a culturally significant area. There is currently no access easement.

7.5.1.4 Huffman Cemetery, 0 Cloverdale Beach 687 County Road 50 East Update

Chair Perry Basden visited the property and provided pictures and further historical details. More research will be completed on the property, including a title search to determine ownership.

7.5.2 Update by Councillor Hammond on the Additional Properties

Nothing to report.

7.5.3 Update on 136 County Road 50 West

Ms. Mailloux was unable to uncover any historically or culturally significant information on the property which would qualify the house for listing or designation. Ms. Jacqueline Baldwin will check the Land Records to determine if relevant information can be provided.

7.6 Cemeteries

7.7 Studies and Master Plans - Ongoing

7.8 Heritage Walking Tour and Digital Component - Ongoing

7.9 Cultural Master Plan - Ongoing

7.10 Historically Significant Name Registry - Ongoing

Connie Clarkson provided names of several Postmaster Generals from 1886

- Joseph Boring

- Daniel Graveline
- Isaac Elford
- Thomas Rush
- William Edgar
- Selina Weldon

Laurie Kowtiuk suggested:

- Edwin Beamon as he saved the history of Essex.

7.11 Cultural Heritage, Indigenous History - Ongoing

7.12 Barn Quilts - Ongoing

7.12.1 Feedback Discussion - Barn Quilt Pamphlet

Mr. Richard Kokovai recommended that the information be updated to say that barn quilts could be any size people wanted, but that they must be square.

7.12.2 Feedback Discussion - Barn Quilt Construction Competition / Display

Mr. Richard Kokovai advised that if there was to be a competition for Barn Quilts, that the prizes should not be awarded out of tax revenue. We have many agricultural businesses, and should be able to get sponsorships.

8. Adjournment

EMHC24-10-70

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:32 p.m..

Carried

9. Future Meetings

Thursday, November 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, Council Chambers, 33 Talbot Street South, Essex, ON.

Chair

Recording Secretary

[REDACTED]
102 Talbot St. S.
Essex, ON
N8M1B2

September 23, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to formally object to the designation of the **102 Talbot St. S.** as a heritage site **in Essex, Ontario**. While we appreciate the importance of preserving historical landmarks, there are several reasons why this particular designation raises concerns, particularly regarding the recognition and respect for Indigenous rights.

First and foremost, it is important to consider the historical context of the land itself. The area around Essex, like much of Ontario, is part of the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples, including the Caldwell First Nation. The heritage designation process must take into account the deep and enduring connection that Indigenous peoples have to the land. This includes not only their historical presence but also their rights under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which Canada has committed to uphold. Article 26 of UNDRIP affirms that Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories, and resources they have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used.

Designating this property as a heritage site without thoroughly consulting the Caldwell First Nation and other relevant Indigenous groups could lead to further marginalization of Indigenous voices in decisions affecting their traditional lands. This could perpetuate a pattern of erasure of Indigenous histories and contributions, particularly if the heritage designation focuses primarily on settler history while neglecting the Indigenous narratives tied to the land.

Another concern is the potential impact on property rights and future development. Heritage designations often impose significant restrictions on how a property can be used, developed, or modified. For property owners, this can create financial burdens and limit opportunities for growth or improvement, potentially devaluing the property in the long term.

Additionally, while the intent of heritage designations is to preserve historical significance, it is important to question whether this particular site truly meets the criteria for such a designation. If the historical value is not sufficiently unique or significant, the designation could place unnecessary constraints on both the property owner and the

broader community.

Lastly, designating this property as a heritage site may conflict with future municipal planning goals or infrastructure development. Overly restrictive designations can hinder progress, especially if the property could be put to better use to serve current community needs.

For these reasons, we urge the decision-making body to reconsider the heritage designation for this property and to carefully weigh the long-term consequences of such a decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

██████████

██████████ (Caldwell First Nation)

102 Talbot St. S.

Essex, ON

██████████

Buchta, Marsha

From: Malandrucolo, Joe
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 8:21 AM
To: Chadwick, Lori
Cc: Jabbour, Rita
Subject: FW: Notice of Objection for 400 County Road 13

FYI... see below received over the weekend.

Regards,
Joe



Joseph A. Malandrucolo, CPA, L.L.B.
Director, Legal & Legislative Services/Clerk | Office of the CAO
P: 519.776.7336 ext. 1132 | F: 519.776.8811
E: jmalandrucolo@essex.ca | www.essex.ca
33 Talbot Street S. Essex, ON N8M 1A8



HONOURING OUR VETERANS
Share your stories at essex.ca/veterans

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2024 11:41 PM
To: Jabbour, Rita <rjabbour@essex.ca>; Malandrucolo, Joe <jmalandrucolo@essex.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Notice of Objection for 400 County Road 13

WARNING: This email originated from someone who is not sending from a Town of Essex email address. Reply only if you recognize the senders email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, the senders email address and know the content is safe.

Hello Rita and the Heritage Committee

I am sending this email as a formal **Notice of Objection** to the Heritage Designation of my property at 400 County Road 13, in Colchester.

First I would like to make you aware that the registered letter that was sent to my wife and I used our middle names and it caused some confusion on who the letter was for, I would like to believe that this was just done

in error on your part and not done to try and negate the observed timeline for an objection. Regardless of the intent I am sending this objection in the time line that was given.

A few years ago I was invited to a Heritage meeting and at that time the Heritage Committee asked to put my property on a Heritage Register to help protect the historical importance of my house and at that time I was promised that the Committee had no intent to force a Heritage Designation on my property. I took what the Committee said to us during the meeting to be the truth and allowed them to put my property on the Heritage Register. Now years later without even contacting me first, the Heritage Committee is doing what they said they would never do, this is very underhanded, in bad faith of what was said at the last meeting, and truly disappointing.

In the notice letter it states that my objection must set out the reasons for my objection and all relevant facts, please see below,

- The house has been in the [REDACTED] family since it was built and will continue to be for the foreseeable future, we have maintained the property for generations and we will continue to do so without the involvement of the heritage committee, or this designation.
- Noted in the description of heritage attributes was the large white verandah porch and decorative pillars on the porch, this porch was added on the house in the 90's and for over 40 years before that it didn't have a front porch.
- Noted in the description of heritage attributes are all existing window openings and shutters, the majority of the windows are only a few years old and the other windows are covered in storm windows that were installed in the 70's also the shutters are plastic, screwed directly to the brick and only there for the cosmetic appearance.
- In early 2000 a large renovation was done on the house (a building permit was issued) roughly 1/3 of the exterior of the building was cement cinderblocks and had a flat roof (that addition was done in the 50's I believe). During our renovation we reclaimed brick from the interior wall and we were able to complete our renovation and improve the historical look around the entire addition of the house.

I would like to say that my family and I agree with you that this property is important, but I must say that this process that you have taken by making this feel forced upon me and my family instead of requesting our involvement, can't be a successful approach. I would hope that in the future a different and respectful approach be looked into.

Please respect mine and my families request to NOT designate our property.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks

Sent via email
jmalandruccolo@essex.ca
rjabbour@essex.ca

September 29, 2024

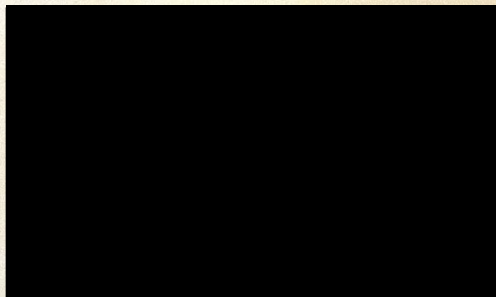
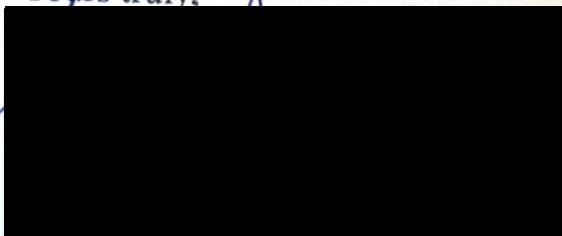
Clerk of the Town of Essex
33 Talbot St South
Essex, ON
N8M 1A8

Dear Sir / Madam,
Re Objection (“Objection”) to the Notice (“Notice”) of Intention
to Designate property at 0 Ferriss Road, East of Harrow
 (“Property”) pursuant to the Heritage Act section 29

The undersigned owners (“Owners”) hereby deliver their
Objection based on the following reasons
and facts;

1. The Town of Essex (“Town”) did not undertake any consultations with the Owners in advance of sending the Notice in contravention of its duty to be accountable, transparent and consider the views of the Owners prior to delivering the Notice.
2. The Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (“Statement”) is deficient and does not comply with the Town’s obligations under the Heritage Act as the Town has failed to provide the Owners with the research and documentary evidence necessary to support the Statement.
3. The Town has failed to properly consider the negative impact of the proposed designation on the continuing care of the Property/ cemetery and the current / future farming activities on the Property.

Yours truly, 





Meeting Schedule for the Essex Municipal Heritage Committee 2025

Meeting Date:	Location:
Thursday January 30, 2025	33 Talbot Street South (Essex) 5:00pm
Thursday February 27, 2025	243 McAfee Street (Harrow) 5:00pm
Thursday March 27, 2025	33 Talbot Street South (Essex) 5:00pm
Thursday April 24, 2025	243 McAfee Street (Harrow) 5:00pm
Thursday May 29, 2025	33 Talbot Street South (Essex) 5:00pm
Thursday June 26, 2025	243 McAfee Street-(Harrow), 5:00pm
Thursday July 31, 2025	33 Talbot Street South (Essex) 5:00pm
Thursday September 25, 2025	243 McAfee Street-(Harrow), 5:00pm
Thursday October 30, 2025	33 Talbot Street South (Essex) 5:00pm
Thursday November 27, 2025	243 McAfee Street-(Harrow), 5:00pm

Note: Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.
 Please contact the Planning Department at 519-776-7336 extension 1128 for confirmation of scheduled meetings.

No meeting date is scheduled for the month of August and December

	Heritage Committee Members	Member Positions	Contact Information
	Perry Basden		
	Jason Matyi		
	Jacqueline Baldwin		
	Connie Clarkson		
	Rodney Hammond		
	Richard Kokovai		
	Laurie Kowtiuk		
	Linda Matyi		
	Grant Peters		
	Rita Jabbour	Staff Liaison	rjabbour@essex.ca
	Marsha Buchta	Recording Secretary	mbuchta@essex.ca

The Snider House

The John Snider House was built in 1813 by John and Elizabeth Snider following their escape from the United States after the American War of Independence. John Snider was a United Empire Loyalist (U. E. L.) who refused to fight alongside revolutionaries and migrated north following the conflict to avoid persecution.

The Snider family was granted the entirety of Lot 73 by King George III in 1798. Parcels of land like this were often granted to Loyalists to reward them for their loyalty to the British Crown and encourage settlement in Upper and Lower Canada.

The Snider house is one of the oldest homes in Essex County and is a rare example of a house built in the Loyalist architectural style. According to family history, during the construction of the home, smoke and the sound of cannons from the Battle of Lake Erie were noticeable from the property.

The Sniders continued to live and work the surrounding farmlands until their death. Both John and Elizabeth are buried at the Tofflemire-Snider Cemetery just east of the Hamlet of Colchester.

In 2024, the Snider house was recognized by the Town of Essex for its architectural and historical significance and received formal designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.



Newsletter

Vol. 9 – November 2024

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

IN THIS ISSUE:

Keeping Time with Legion 338
- Dawn Bezaire

HEIRS Holiday Hobnob Event

D-Day War Diary - Lorrie Stephenson

A Poet of No Mean Ability – Laurie Brett

Detained by the Russians - Brian Leslie



Helping local homeowners make history since 1952



Mike Tomek 519-819-1313
mike@tomekrealty.com



Ann Bezaire 519-818-0651
ann@tomekrealty.com



Page 13 of 22
Hayley Tomek 519-300-6855
hayley@tomekrealty.com



Catching Up!

- by Lorrie Stephenson, President, HEIRS

Volunteers at HEIRS are working on something new this year.

Save the date! The HEIRS Holiday Hobnob will take place at the King Street Cafe on Friday, December 6, from 10-6. New HEIRS calendars will be available for sale, as well as local history books. There will also be chances to take home gift baskets full of merchandise and services. More info on page 3!

In early October a notice was sent out to members with a copy of proposed by-law amendments. At our October meeting, members voted in favour of adopting the revisions to the by-laws in order to bring them in compliance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). One additional issue will be considered at a special meeting to be held right before the regular November meeting. At that time, members will decide whether to proceed with a formal financial review in 2025 or waive that requirement.

Congratulations to Heritage Colchester on receiving the 2024 Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture. An honour well deserved.

I
S
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Although HEIRS has many historic photos of our town, we are always on the lookout for more. Currently we are *In Search Of* old photos of the **Heaton building** – which is now occupied by the Bearded Dog, and photos of the original **T.B. Adams building** which was on the property now occupied by Golden Law and Hometown Dental.



We'd be grateful if you could take a peek at your old photos and pass along any that you might find so we can digitize them and share them with the current occupants of the buildings. Originals will be returned.



Keeping Time with Legion 338

- by Dawn Bezaire, Legion Branch 338 Secretary

Lest We Forget

The Harrow Cenotaph, created in 2015, will be hosting Royal Canadian Legion Harrow Br.338 laying of the wreaths on Remembrance Day, Monday, November 11th at 10:15 am. The Remembrance Day ceremony takes place at 10:45. Each year the Legion sells wreaths to honour fallen comrades to individuals and businesses with all money collected going into the Poppy fund to support veterans.

The Cenotaph is also home to personalized engraved bricks that are available to purchase by contacting rcibranch338@gmail.com. The money from the CenotaphBrickprogram goes directly into the Cenotaph fund for maintenance and improvements.

This beautiful park is located in downtown Harrow on King Street, east of the Post Office The Legion will be hosting Christmas Card nights to send to our deployed soldiers. Local Scouting and Girl Guide groups, as well as Community members are invited to participate.



Entrance to the Veterans Memorial Park and Cenotaph (Cenotaph pictured on Front cover)



Decorated rocks line the front of the Cenotaph. From a 2023 community rock paint night led by Secretary, Dawn Bezaire.

Everyone is encouraged to follow our Facebook page for more information <https://www.facebook.com/groups/legionharrow338/>

Harrow Legion Book Club



Wed. Nov 20th, 7pm,
Harrow Legion,
37 McAfee St
PUBLIC WELCOME
**When The World
Fell Silent**

by Donna Jones Alward
A novel about the 1917 Halifax Explosion
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November 28th Meeting (1:30PM)

(Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room)



Caldwell First Nation

Carrie Ann Peters, Culture & Language Coordinator will share and educate on the traditional values of Caldwell First Nation. With a deep history in the area, predating the arrival of Europeans, the Caldwell First Nation's Traditional Territory spans along Lake Erie from the Detroit River to Long Point.

After 220 years of separation from their Traditional Territory, the Government designated a 200-acre parcel of land as a "Reserve". The Caldwell First Nation is rebuilding their community and rebuilding their connections. Caldwell First Nation continues to build relationships with surrounding Municipalities and Organizations as an effort to create an understanding of Traditional values and restore a harmonious life for the next generations.

Monthly Meetings held at 1:30 in Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Room



Holiday Hobnob

AT THE **KING STREET CAFE** 24 King St W, Harrow

WINNING GIFT BASKETS



HEIRS NEW 2025 CALENDARS AND LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS FOR SALE

The King Street Cafe will introduce a

NEW delectable HOLIDAY TREAT

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6 10AM-6PM



Socks & Bottoms
Drop off new gloves, hats & socks for the Harrow Rotary Club

EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTY

Kent Branch OGS

Photo Restoration & Storage

Dana Palmer discusses organization tips and restoration programs - webinar

Available until November 30

<https://m.youtube.com/@kentbranchogs4311>

Kingsville-Gosfield Heritage Society

Mill Creek: It's Influence on the

Development of Kingsville

Speaker: Grant Munroe

November 4 at 2:00pm

First Baptist Church, Kingsville

Essex Branch OGS: Tour of the Franco-Ontarian Resource Centre

November 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM

FREE Webinar. Registration required

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0udOGhrDivGdTmsPMBrdUsc)

[tZ0udOGhrDivGdTmsPMBrdUsc](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8122111111)
[usM5aUGa0#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8122111111)

The Marsh Collection Trivia Night at Shooter's

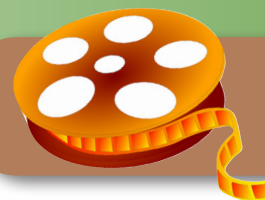
Amherstburg, \$25/team

November 24 at 7pm

Visit

<https://swoheritage.ca/events/>
for more event info

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October Meeting Review

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

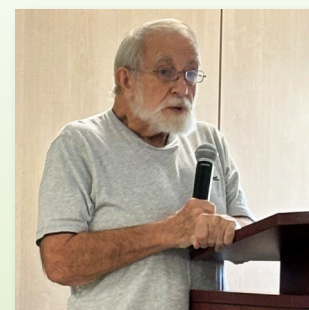
Preserving Precious Memories



Dennis Marentette

The October 24 meeting of HEIRS featured Dennis Marentette of DDM Video Productions of Windsor www.ddmvideo.com. He spoke to us about his passion, and long career, of saving media of various forms by converting them to digital files for computers.

We were reminded that video ages, dries out becomes brittle or damaged, and can be lost forever. He is able to not only copy originals but usually improve the video quality of images, and set to a music background if desired. They are then put onto DVD disks or a flash drive for easy use.



Ted Steele returned to the podium this month to introduce Dennis Marentette

Saving home movies from the past preserves these special memories and allows them to be easily shared among family members at a reasonable price. I can't think of better Christmas gifts to share with our families at this special time of the year. If you have memories to be preserved, contact HEIRS or Dennis directly at (519) 739-3463 or info@ddmvideo.com Don't let this golden opportunity slip past you. It may not come again.



D-Day War Diary

- by Lorrie Stephenson, President, HEIRS

The Normandy Invasion

June 1944 – World War II

On the expected eve of D-day, in the seaside parish of Weymouth in Dorset, England a young man from Essex County, Ontario scribed in the small notebook which he used as a diary. He wrote down the tactics that were to be used for the impending beach landing at Normandy, France. The young man, Harry Brian of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR), served aboard the HMCS corvette “Camrose” – a flower class corvette whose duties were to include escorting convoys to and from the Normandy beaches. The Camrose was one of 109 ships from HMCN to take part in the Normandy invasion.

Harry Brian clearly understood the historic significance of the events and recorded them not only in writing but through photos, which can be found at www.forposterityssake.ca/CTB-BIO/MEM003936.htm.

The Brian family lived on Poplar Bluff in Oxley for many years and many of his family members still live in the area. His diary was passed down to his children and grandchildren, including Amy Meleg Flanagan who generously shared several pages surrounding the time of the D-day invasion.

The June 4, 1944 diary entry (next page) referred to an artificial harbour. These temporary harbours, called Mulberry harbours, were a feat of engineering - a tactical response to the devastation of the Dieppe Raid in 1942 in which 6,000 men, most from the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, landed on the open beach. More than half the men were wounded, killed or captured. For the June 1944 invasion, creating a stable landing area for troops and equipment was vital.

Massive sections made of steel and concrete, called Pheonix Caissons, were towed across the English channel. Once reaching the French side they were pieced together like a puzzle to create two portable harbours, each about the size of Dover, England.

Continued...



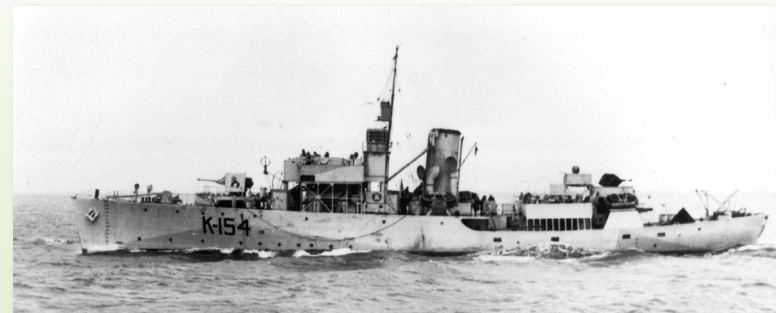
Harry Brian



HMCS CAMROSE K154 circa 1941-1942 - location unknown. Harry Brian beneath red star. From the collection of Thomas Holland Burdon, Courtesy of Dave Burdon www.forposterityssake.ca.

Right: HMCS Camrose K-154

Below: A Phoenix Cassion being towed across the English Channel to Normandy. From the collection of Harry A. J. Brian, RCNVR, Courtesy of David Brian www.forposterityssake.ca.



D Day Diary ... cont'd

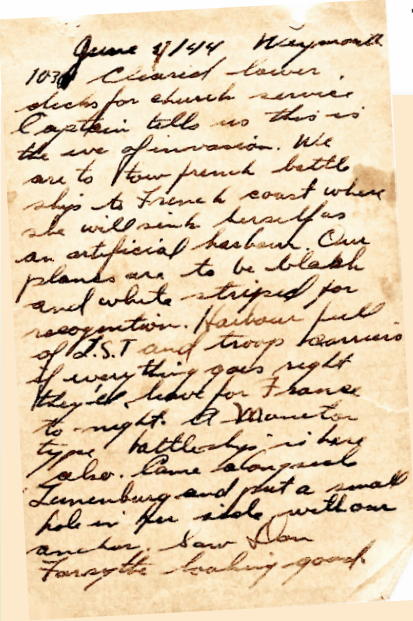
Towing the Phoenix Caissons across the channel was very slow - moving at the speed of a brisk walk, making the sections vulnerable to attack by Germans. Predicting this, high ranking naval officers asked 8 experienced Canadian corvettes, including the Camrose, to protect the convoys. Two of the corvettes were lost in the crossings. First was the Regina, losing most of her crew, followed soon after by the Alberni which sank in about 3 seconds. Despite these losses, not one section of the floating harbours was lost.

The Camrose made it's first crossing on D-day-plus-one (June 7). The corvettes were kept busy, and on several occasions raced full on to head off German E-boats and U-boats, and belted anti-aircraft fire at German planes.

The following are some excerpts from the diary of Harry Brian...

Jun 4/44 Weymouth, England

9:30 am Cleared lower decks for church service. Captain tells us this is the eve of invasion. We are to tow a French battleship to the French coast where she will sink herself as an artificial harbour. Our planes are to be black and white striped for recognition. Harbour full of L.S.T. and troop barriers. If everything goes right they'll leave for France tonight. A Monitor type battleship is here also. Came alongside Lunenburg and put a small hole in her side with our anchor. Saw Don Forsythe, looking good.

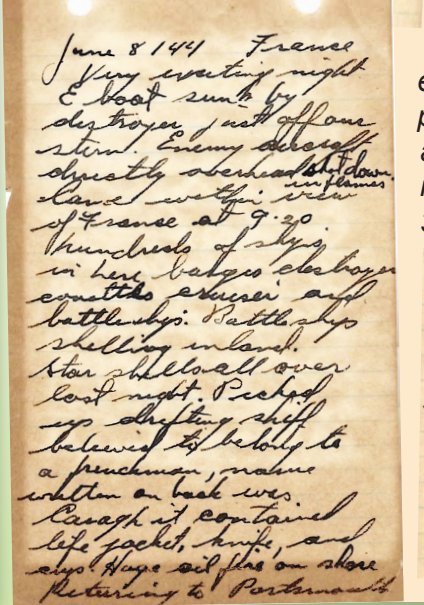
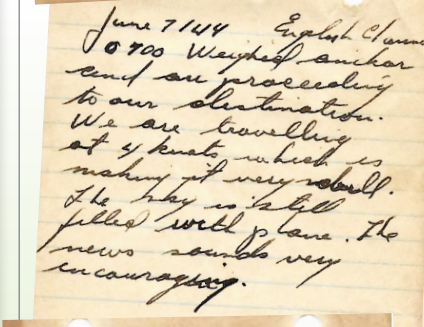
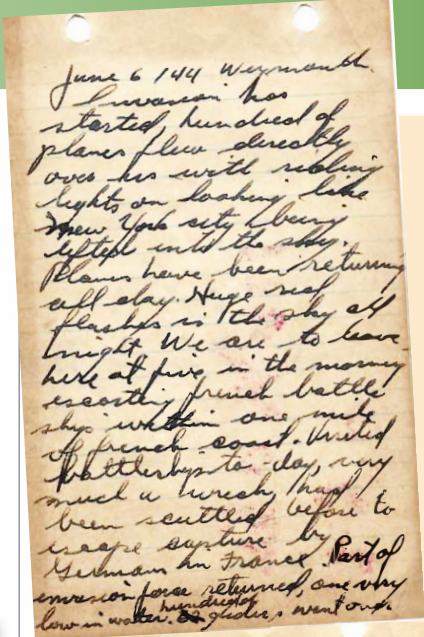


June 5/44 Weymouth, England

Invasion has not started yet, probably today. The harbour has been cleared of all ships except us and Baddeck (another Corvette) also battleships. The invasion will be in the next two days. Flying Fortress all around today, they're all black and white. Great activities over at the airbase close by.

June 6/44 Weymouth, England

Invasion has started, hundreds of planes directly over us with riding lights on, looking like New York City being lifted into the sky. Planes have been returning all day. Huge red flashes in the sky all night. We are to



leave here at five in the morning, escorting a French battleship within one mile of French coast. Visited battleship today, very much a wreck, had to be scuttled (sunk) before, to escape capture by Germans in France. Part of the invasion force returned, one very low in water. Hundreds of gliders went over.

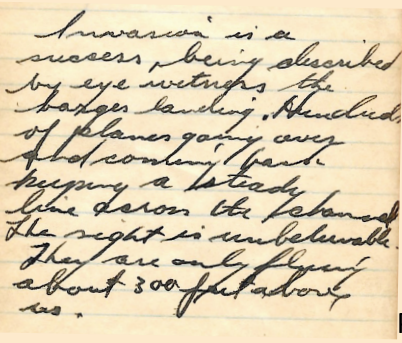
June 7/44 English Channel

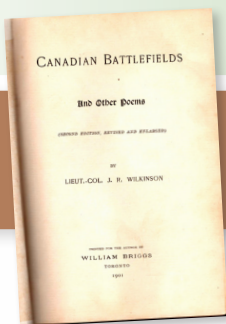
7:00 am Weighed anchor and are proceeding to our destination. We are travelling at 4 knots which is making it very dull. The sky is still filled with planes. The news sounds very encouraging.

June 8/44 France

Very exciting night. E-Boat sunk by destroyer just off our stern. Enemy aircraft directly overhead shot down in flames. Came within view of France at 9:20. Hundreds of ships are here; barges, destroyers, corvettes, cruisers and battleships. Battleship shelling inland. Huge oil fire on shore. Retiring to Portsmouth.

Invasion is a success, being described by eye witness the barges landing. Hundreds of planes going over and coming back, keeping a steady line across the channel. The sight is unbelievable. They are only flying about 300 feet above us.





A Poet of No Mean Ability

- by Laurie Brett, HEIRS Secretary Treasurer

Lieutenant-Colonel John Richardson Wilkinson

*After the flight of thirty long years
They came at the welcome call;
Someone had suggested a reunion
Of the "old corps," one and all.
They came from the village and crossroads,
The town, the shop, and the farm;
Just as they did thirty years ago,
When their hearts were young and warm.*

*They met at the "campfire" of reunion,
Clasped hands as comrades once more,
Recalled the deeds of the dauntless past,
And their campaigns recounted o'er.
"Fall in!" the old commander shouted,
"Fall in—after thirty years!"
With the same old ring, save a tremble,
And his eyes were misty with tears.*

*And they formed in column by the left,
"Proved" in sections and in fours,
Just as they did thirty years ago,
Guarding our frontier shores.
But not with the same quick precision
As when young and strong and gay;
But they did it, and with kindling eyes,
Though old and worn and gray.*

Those are the first three stanzas of "The Veterans' Reunion," one of over a hundred poems written by Lt.-Col. John Richardson Wilkinson and published in 1899 in **Canadian Battlefields and Other Poems**. A second edition of the title, published in 1901 as a "revised and enlarged" work, was recently discovered on the HEIRS bookshelves. It's a 309-page publication with marbled cardboard covers, floral end papers, and – most impressively

– gilded page ends.

It's not surprising that HEIRS has a copy of Wilkinson's work. It was very favourably received when it was published, and by 1901 Wilkinson had sold 2,400 copies, many of them within Essex County. Newspaper accounts from 1899 to 1901 show that he travelled throughout the county collecting orders and then delivering them house to house.

Who was this prolific poet and why did his poetry focus on the military history of Essex County?

John Richardson Wilkinson was born in Mersea Township on September 21, 1837. His Irish great-grandparents had settled in the United States around the time of the American Revolution but moved to Canada in 1801. His grandfather, also named John, settled in Mersea and that line of the family became closely associated with the Town of Leamington. His father, John W. Wilkinson, served as sergeant in the militia during the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837-1838.

On the family farm, Wilkinson learned carpentry and cabinet-making. For many years he was a contractor and builder. In fact, he was the building inspector during construction of the original Essex High School built in 1888 – the first high school in the county, outside Windsor.

In 1862, Wilkinson was appointed color-sergeant in the Leamington Independent Infantry Company. According to the Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of Essex, he then "took special pains to perfect himself in military tactics," passed some competency tests, and was then qualified to command a



LIEUT.-COL. J. R. WILKINSON,
Late Commanding 21st Fusiliers.

Continued...

A Poet of No Mean Ability ... cont'd

company and regiment. He was appointed Second Lieutenant during the Fenian Raid of 1866. Shortly thereafter he was made First Lieutenant and subsequently Captain and Major. He was also his company's drill instructor for 16 years.

When the Northwest Rebellion broke out in 1885, Wilkinson was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and was authorized to organize five companies of volunteer infantry. The regiment, originally known as the 21st Essex Battalion of Infantry, would also be called the Essex Fusiliers. In 1927, it would take a more familiar name -- the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment.

Although his training consisted primarily of drills, Wilkinson's enthusiasm for military operations was stirred. He was one of the first men to enter the Military Rifle League and his teams always successfully competed in shooting tournaments. He also began to write poems about Canadian military engagements, paying special attention to the War of 1812, the Upper Canada Rebellion,

the Fenian Raid, and the Boer War. Titles that are especially meaningful to us at HEIRS include "The Battle of the Canard River," "The Taking of Detroit," "The Battle of Point au Pelee Island," and "The Rescue" – a poem about the daring rescue of ice harvesters who drifted "out over the bosom of Erie, 'mid the tempest's ruthless roar."

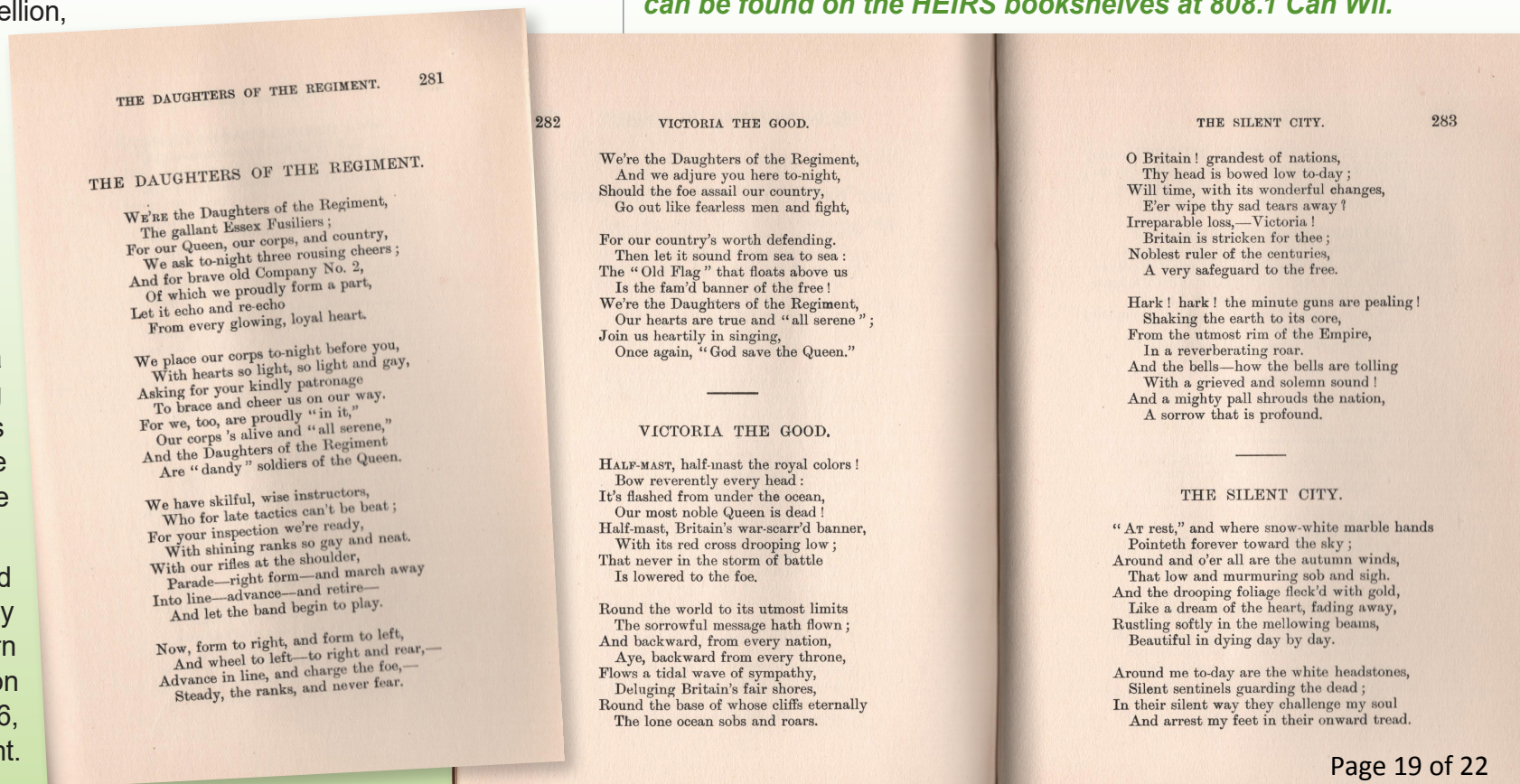
In 1892, Wilkinson retired from active military duty. When the Western Veterans' Association was established in 1896, he was elected president.

The poem that opened this story was written as a tribute to the members of the North Ridge Rifles and Leamington Infantry who mustered in 1866 to repel the Fenians (that never came) and reunited 30 years later to reminisce.

Wilkinson's success as a local poet is well documented. In 1899, the Essex Free Press noted that the Colonel was "possessed of a good deal of poetical ability."

A Toronto Globe report published in 1901 said, "his poems are charged with a robust spirit of patriotism and loyalty." Shortly after Wilkinson's second edition of *Canadian Battlefields* was released, The Commemorative Biographical Record was published (1905). In the entry for Wilkinson, the authors noted that the Lieutenant-Colonel was "an author of no mean ability."

You can judge for yourself. Canadian Battlefields and Other Poems can be found on the HEIRS bookshelves at 808.1 Can Wil.





Detained by the Russians

My Friendship with Pastor Eduard Franz

- by Brian A. Leslie

The following story was submitted by HEIRS member Brian A. Leslie and is based on conversations Brian had with Pastor Eduard Franz (1934-2012). It also contains a few personal asides about Brian's youthful adventures in Europe and how their lives intertwined.

Brian served on the HEIRS Board of Directors for eight years and is an avid writer. He writes and performs under his professional name, Brian A., Janis, and Billie (BAJB Never Alone).

This story is about my very close friend Pastor Eduard Franz and his wife Marion who pastored the Bethel Pentecostal Church by the Harrow Public School on Herdman Street. Pastor Franz died in the summer of 2012. I



Today's Pentecostal Church building on Herdman Street

was unable to attend his funeral due to personal illness. I was therefore not able to tell this story at his funeral.

Pastor Franz was born in a German section of Poland, in the north, near the Baltic Sea. As is common to most of the persons of German ethnicity in Harrow, he arrived here after escaping the Russian army that gathered on the eastern border of Germany at the end of the

Second World War. Time for people like Pastor Franz is divided into "Vor, Während und Nach dem Krieg" – before, during and after the war. This is what happened to him during the war.

As the Russian troops entered Poland, they came to the farm owned by Pastor Franz' parents. A Polish worker told the Russians that there were no Germans there, which gave the family time to escape to the grandparents' farm.

Despite the brief reprieve, the little family was eventually captured and placed in front of a Russian firing squad! The officer gave the command –

"Ready, Aim, . . ." – but balked at the final order, as he watched Pastor Franz' mother gather the little family pitifully for their last time of prayer together.

Having avoided execution, the Russians sent the family to a concentration camp built by the Germans near Berlin to house Jews and political prisoners. Pastor Franz' father died in the camp under Russian guard.

As a young detainee, Pastor Franz was granted a day pass, which allowed him to leave the camp and enter East Berlin to serve as a domestic worker for a German family. To get there and back each day he had to walk over unclaimed, decaying bodies of war casualties.

When the war was over and his family finally left the camp, Pastor Franz took a chance and jumped over the barbed wire separating East and West Berlin. This was before the Berlin Wall – "Die Mauer" – was built. He passed through Checkpoint Charlie and joined the American and Allied troops.

Brian's story: I was detained at Checkpoint Charlie in 1971. Despite ongoing Cold War tensions, my youthful self decided to enliven my European adventure by crossing over to the Soviet side of "Die Mauer." After four hours of pointless interrogation, I was overwhelmed by my treatment behind the "Iron Curtain" and the baffled East German officer released me back to West Berlin.

The U.S. military then flew Pastor Franz to Hanover where he trained to be a butcher and later studied to become an accountant. His



The Iron Curtain was both a metaphor and a physical barrier dividing Europe into "east" and "west" after World War II. It consisted of fences, walls, minefields and watchtowers that ran for 7,000 kilometres. Page 20 of 22



Checkpoint Charlie today

family eventually joined him and established a nursing home near Hanover that continues to operate today.

In time, Pastor Franz decided to attend Bible School in England. It was there that he met his wife, Marion Holtfoth, originally from Hamburg, Germany.

In 1945, during Operation Gomorrah, the Allies flew many mission sorties over Germany, dropping incendiary bombs that nearly obliterated cities and killed thousands of civilians. Like the city of Dresden, the Port of Hamburg, home of the Germany Navy, was a major target. As firebrands fell around them during the bombing, Marion's mother wrapped Marion and her siblings in wet blankets and led them to safety on the outskirts of the city. Commuter S-Bahn trains were waiting to take groups of displaced people into the countryside. When her mother looked out the train window and saw a sign for Glückstadt -- which translates to Happy or Lucky City -- she knew it was the right place to resettle her little family.

As a teenager, Marion decided that she would like to attend Bible School in England. Her father had returned from his military service and disapproved of his daughter's decision. He said that if she went to England, she could not return home. Marion decided to go anyway.

Eduard Franz, not yet a pastor, was the president of the student body when Marion arrived at the Bible School. They were soon fast friends. After graduation, he and Marion returned to his family home in Hanover. When the church elders objected to them living in the same house, they had a simple marriage.

The married couple returned to West Berlin to help oversee a containment camp for refugees from East Germany, which was at that time under

Russian control. They also worked in the ministry of a local church. Some of their students included Helmut Kohl who became the Chancellor of West Germany, and Reinhart Bonnke, a high profile evangelist who principally worked in Africa.

In 1985, Pastor Franz was invited to come to Canada as clergyman to a German-speaking congregation at Bethel Church in Harrow. Without government authorization, he was reluctant to accept and move his large family to Canada. As a result, he made an appointment to meet with a federal government official in the West German capital of Bonn. As luck (or divine intervention) would have it, the official had come to Harrow as a young boy to visit his grandmother who attended the very church that Pastor Franz was being asked to lead.

With official approval, Pastor Franz came to Harrow with his wife and seven of his twelve children and began pastoring the German congregation at Bethel Church. In 1991, they bought a 40-acre farm on the Third Concession that continues to remain in the family.

***Brian's story:** In 1970, I worked at a commercial rose nursery in the German state of Schleswig-Holstein, just south of Denmark at the base of Jutland Peninsula. As the name suggests, the state is the home of the black and white Holstein cows. Every day that summer, I punched in and out of work at a barn located in Marion's small town of Glückstadt. It has always amazed me that 25 years later I was sharing memories of Glückstadt with Marion when we were both living in Harrow.*



Pastor Franz, his wife Marion, and three of their children: Kornelia in front, Thomas and Danielle in the back.

In 1993, I entered their lives when I decided to attend German-language Sunday School. Because of the time I had spent in Germany in my twenties, I was able to communicate with them in both English and German.

With so much in common – two shared languages, a familiarity with Glückstadt and other German cities, and first-hand encounters with the “Zonengrenze” or Iron Curtain – it's really no wonder we became best friends.



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Newsletters

HEIRS newsletter is published 10 times/year: colour digital version by email or B&W print version by regular post. Colour print newsletters available at sponsor locations.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this newsletter is based on the best sources available to us at the time of publication. Historical accuracy is important. Please advise if you have additional information, photographs or other materials to share with us.

Meetings

Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, September to June, (July, August & December excepted).

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