



Hamilton

MINUTES: Hamilton Historical Board
Tuesday, 18 February, 2014 – 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Lister Block- Rm B05

CHAIR: Rob Hamilton

MINUTE TAKER: Lee-Anne Dantzer

PRESENT: Robert Hamilton, Robin McKee, Mary Anderson, John Nixon, Bob Williamson, pat, Susanne Noordyk, Carolyn McCann

STAFF: Christopher Redford

REGRETS: Christine Lei, Russ Powers

GUESTS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

That the February Agenda of the Hamilton Historical Board be approved. (Pat, Robin)

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ()

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

That the January 2014 minutes of the Hamilton Historical Board be approved (carolyn)

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Robin: List of Cemetery tours passed out, talk in Aldershot Feb 23rd, did talk on Black History.
- Pat received Heritage Achievement Trust Award

4. ITEMS OF MOTION

4.1.1 Communications & Education Sub-committee

4.1.2 Editorial Team

4.1.3 Heritage Events Sub-Committee

4.1.4 Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee

A distinguished Canadian artist, William Blair Bruce, the son of William Bruce and Janet Blair, spent his youth at "Elmwood", the family home built in 1869. It stood in the southwest corner of the Bruce estate, now called Bruce Park. It was donated to the city in 1958 by his sister, Bell Bruce-Walkden. William received his early art training from his father and after attending the local Mechanics Institute he was employed as a draftsman. In 1881 he entered the Académie Julian in Paris to study art. Working in oils, he became a painter of great versatility and was the most frequent Canadian exhibitor of paintings at the Paris Salons in the 19th century. His canvases include landscapes, seascapes, portraits and subject pictures.

Although Bruce lived in France and Sweden, his legacy to Hamilton has been extensive. Upon his death at the age of 47, his widow in Sweden along with his father and sister in Hamilton, made a gift of 29 of his paintings to the City of Hamilton on condition that a permanent municipal art gallery be established. That modest gallery opened on June 30, 1914 and has become the Art Gallery of Hamilton. The Bruce Memorial Collection includes well-known works such as *The Phantom Hunter* and *Summer Day, France*. *Joy of the Nereids* and *The Smiths* are paintings held by the National Gallery of Canada.

IMAGE ONE & CAPTION:

The Phantom Hunter (1888), courtesy the Art Gallery of Hamilton. Inspired by the poem The Walker of the Snow, by Charles D. Shanly:

IMAGE TWO & CAPTION:

Photo of William Blair Bruce and his wife Caroline taken on the occasion of a visit in 1895 to his parents at Elmwood, now Bruce Park. Photo courtesy The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa

I saw by sickly moonlight,
As I followed, bending low,
That the walking of the stranger
Left no footmarks on the snow.

The fear-chill gathered o'er me,
Like a shroud around me cast,
As I sank upon the snow-drift
Where the Shadow-hunter passed.

Motion: to accept the re-wording of the William Blair Bruce Plaque, and captions. (Robin, Carolyn, PASSED)

5. 2012 HHB Budget & Work Plan/MHP Report – Ian Kerr-Wilson

- Closed books for 2013.
- 2014 budget approved and is about the same as previous years.
- Reports ready for planning and GIC: Balfour Estate- putting money into house to render it livable (pending council approval) also movie shoots. Intern from conservation school to live there.
- DBHI goes to GIC on March 19th- report. Large report 3000 pgs. Goes to planning on March 18th
- Back to GIC for Children's Museum
- Six nations, Wampum event 2015- replica at Military Museum
- Blood Ties- opens in March
- Final wrap up of Bloody Assize- next year
- Auchmar RFP still in process, one last offer for restoration and operation (non-binding) to be decided by council via evaluation process.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1. Committee Reports (5 minutes each for questions)

6.1.1. Communications & Education Sub-committee – John Nixon

- No meeting this month. Evaluating the website. One more meeting for recommendations, then motion, then action plan.

6.1.2. Editorial Team – Christine Lei

- 1814 edition of HistoriCITY.
- All articles are in.

- Printing date will be prior to battlefield weekend.

6.1.3. Heritage Events Sub-Committee – Pat Saunders

- Heritage Day event this Saturday February 22nd.
- Please wear a period costume if you have one
- 13 tables

6.1.4. Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee – Robin McKee

- Historical plaque and designation plaque are the 2 plaques going forward from minutes.
- 3 for the ground and working on 6 others
- Cooley-Hatt cemetery- will be cemetery and left as a park.
- To look into artefact at The Electric City plaque. Who owns, who maintains artefact?
- Inventory- Carolyn is working on it.
- Congrats to Christopher for location of Loretto plaque
That the reports of Item 6.1 be received. ()

**6.2. Questions Arising from Other Reports/Projects
(5 minutes each for questions)**

6.2.1. Municipal Heritage Committee –

- Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society-letter to intervene at Century Manor.
- Ian to look into responsibility of Century Manor and maintenance of the building.
Pat to send contact numbers she attained as directed by the premier.
- Christopher working on heritage permits for 6 designated properties that were designated but not yet plaqued.

6.2.2. City Museums Programme Committee – Carolyn McCann

- nothing

6.2.3. City Museum & Archive Sub-Committee – Rob Hamilton

- Not met

That the reports of Item 6.2 be received. ()

6.3. Questions Arising from Museum Reports (5 minutes each for questions)

6.3.1. Battlefield House Museum & Park – Christopher Redford

- Work on Nash Jackson, progressing- video screens, Bob locating plaque to orient visitors to the site of the battle.
- Gage House front hall stenciling-removed dry wall, 90% complete, virtually all stenciling is there. Attempt to restore and protect, request to try to keep it subtle, still looking into how this is going to be done.
- Christopher- Reproduction of wallpaper.

6.3.2. Hamilton Children's Museum - Carolyn McCann

- Interim programming, outreach at Fieldcote and Dundurn.

6.3.3. Dundurn National Historic Site – Pat Saunders

- Ken is back, Dundurn celebrated family day.
- Will provide statistics next month.

6.3.4. Hamilton Military Museum – Christine Lei

- New exhibit- upstairs similar to Bloody Assize. Projection video room. Items moved to Coach House for the time.

6.3.5. Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum – Susanne Noordyk

- Continuing July 20th planning for 200th anniversary of Bloody Assize. 40 descendants of those hanged to attend.

6.3.6. Griffin House – Robin McKee

- Free hike yesterday- busy day.
- Panels in the process.

- Name on top of report missing

6.3.7. Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology – Bob Williamson

- James Watt's Birthday celebrated, January 18th.
- Connection with Children's Museum- Family Day yesterday.
- Wednesday wiggles
- Partnership with Children's Museum gives great exposure in slower winter months.
- Discovering Diversity- perspective instead of just facts.
- Landscape study coming up.

6.3.8. Whitehern Historic House & Garden – Mary Anderson

- July 6th event- clothing vendors, fashion show, and food.
- Whitehern.ca- artist of iron flowers at Whitehern, request for biography of artist.
- Reproduction of gates closer to what was there earlier. No heritage value of old gates, were disposed of.

That the reports of Item 6.3 be received (Susanne, Pat, PASSED)

7. Other HHB Business

7.1 Grounds Use Requests

That the reports of all items be received ()

8. New Business

- Evaluation Tool for all Volunteer Committees. Could everyone report back after taking a look? To be delayed until the next HHB meeting.
- Suggestion to add in Museum Reports "for details see our website" with link.
- Nature of the reporting to HHB- point of discussion over next few months

9. Adjournment ()

Next Meeting: March 18, 2014- Lister Block Basement (**12:00pm for next meeting**)