



recollect

News from the Millbrook and Cavan Historical Society

History
MILLBROOK AND CAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2023

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Firefighters from 1946: in cab: Lloyd Byam;
left to right: Jack Kellett, Dave Lunn, Bill Hutchinson, Lavern
Gibson, Ernie Powell, Russell Reid, Doug Sheppard

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We meet on the traditional territory of
the Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat,
Anishinabewaki and acknowledge
with thanks their stewardship of
this land throughout the ages.

History MILLBROOK AND CAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MANDATE

The purpose of the Millbrook & Cavan Historical Society is to bring together individuals interested in the diverse historical aspects of Cavan Monaghan and to research, record, retain, preserve, and present historical information pertaining to the area.

The objectives of the Society include:

- Recalling the past and preserving the present.
- Maintaining a community repository for artifacts and written records of historical interest to Cavan Monaghan.
- Encouraging the study and research of the history of Cavan Monaghan and heritage-based learning, and developing volunteer opportunities for individuals.
- Securing and preserving an accurate account of the historical, architectural and archaeological heritage of Millbrook and Cavan.
- Advancing education by improving the public's understanding and awareness of the history of Cavan Monaghan by hosting events, displays, exhibitions and performances, supporting programs offered by the society, and by producing educational material.
- Preserving objects and structures of historical significance.



MCHS is now on Instagram!

*Support heritage conservation in your community
by following us and sharing our content.*

 **mchistoricalsociety**

A LETTER FROM THE MCHS BOARD

We're back and we've got an exciting calendar of events planned for the rest of 2023 and the first half of 2024.

We are back in action after the restful summer season. Our new Board of Directors has come together to plan an interesting and varied program that aims to share our local history through storytelling and community events. This fall we are testing whether or not afternoon programming is viable, with short presentations in the Harry Williams Room at the Millbrook Branch of Cavan Monaghan Libraries. Our next one is on Wednesday, November from, 3-4pm.

Settling the archived collection in its new space continues. Our archivist is in the process of putting together a guide to the various indices and finding aids we have for navigating the collection. It is hoped that library staff will be able to provide requested materials to patrons using the guide, and then return materials to the HS space.

Yes! We are looking for volunteers! There are lots of newspapers that could be scanned. If you have some free time, get in touch, please!

If you have recently renewed your membership with us or have joined us for the first time, very sincerely we thank you. Membership fees allow us to book speakers and rent space for our events, maintain our collection and digitize documents and newspapers. We need you! Thank you, friends and neighbours, for encouraging us with your participation and enthusiasm. We are grateful for the support of Cavan Monaghan Township and the Cavan Monaghan Libraries, and we are heartened by the feedback we receive that tells us we're a vital part of this thriving community.

We hope you'll join us for our light-hearted look at history and traditions at our Trivia Night, Thursday, November 30, 7 pm, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 402, downtown Millbrook. Come as a team, or fly solo. If the lucky team awarded the "Not Haunted" doll at our last Trivia Night would like to part with her, you are most welcome to bring her on November 30 so that she can be presented to the brand new, good-natured, bottom-of-the-heap group. Good luck to all!

BRUCE LEPPER MEMORIAL BIRDHOUSE

At the entrance to the Millbrook Community Garden, located to the South of the Old Millbrook School, a new structure has been erected...and it's for the birds. Literally.

In memory of our dear friend Bruce Lepper, who sadly passed away in late 2022, the Historical Society and the Township commissioned a replica of the Armstrong House, where Bruce and his wife Lyn lived for many years.

We invite the community to visit and enjoy this exquisite birdhouse.



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an adjustment!**



office hours

Monday 3 pm - 6 pm

Tuesday 2:30 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday 10 am - 12 pm

Thursday 2:30 pm - 7 pm



contact us

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 whalefamilychiropractic.ca

 21 King St. E., Millbrook ON L0A 1G0

COLLECTING OUR STORIES

*Everything you need to know about the new program for seniors
at Cavan Monaghan Libraries*



Residents of the Township of Cavan Monaghan and the surrounding area are invited to the Cavan Monaghan Libraries every Wednesday (Millbrook Branch) and Thursday (Bruce Johnston Branch) from 1-3pm to participate in the CM Libraries new project called “Collecting our stories” made possible through funding from the Ontario Government’s Senior Community Grant Program.

Over the next 7 months, community members are encouraged to take part in a series of meet-ups and memoir-writing workshops which will provide some guidance and assistance to capture family stories.

Staff and volunteers will provide conversation prompts to help with the weekly story-telling/story-writing. The project will officially conclude in March 2024 with the publishing of a book containing the stories written or told by the participants.

This project is meant to benefit the community by giving the participants a sense of belonging: everyone’s story is important, everyone is welcome. This project will become an archive of information provided by those who are here now - protecting memories for future residents and generations. The main focus of this grant is memoir-writing although any kind of story-telling will be encouraged. Those who can type or write will be guided to record their own stories, while others who need help can have a volunteer transcribe their stories for them. Voice/video recording equipment will also be available and voice to text software will be used to convert stories to a written format. During the weekly “Tech Times” hosted at the Millbrook Branch on Fridays and the

Bruce Johnston Branch on Thursdays, participants in the “Collecting our stories” project can learn computer skills such as word processing. Staff will also offer one-to-one training for Ancestry to assist with family research as well as the other e-resources the CM Libraries subscribes to. As an extension of the “Collecting our stories” project, the CM Libraries is offering a unique opportunity for the community.

On Wednesdays in November, Care Archbold, an Expressive Art Therapist, will lead participants in drawing a map of where they grew up, or an important place in their lives. The images will then be photocopied on high quality art paper so that the participants can work on multiple versions. The images will then be added to, using paint, pastel, collage, or words through a guided process to explore the memories. At the end of the sessions, the participants will have a collection of images that will form a visual memoir.

While this project is mainly geared towards the 55+ community because of the funding source, options for intergenerational involvement will be available - including volunteer opportunities for all ages.

***More details can be found on the CM Libraries webpage at:
[cavanmonaghanlibraries.ca/
collectingourstories](https://cavanmonaghanlibraries.ca/collectingourstories)***



UPCOMING MCHS EVENTS

Visit www.millbrookcavanhs.org for more details or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

November 1, 2023

Virtual Tour of Historic Millbrook, pt. 2



Where: CMLibraries - Millbrook Branch
When: 3pm - 4pm

Enjoy a visual tour of some of the heritage properties in Millbrook and learn about some of the town's movers and shakers of the 19th and 20th centuries.

November 30, 2023

1980s and 1990s Retro-Themed Trivia Night



Where: Millbrook Legion Hall
When: 7pm - 9pm

It's back! The long awaited sequel to our first-ever Trivia Night. We look forward to giving you some real headscratchers and providing fabulous prizes for our winners. Come as a team or fly solo.

February 22, 2023

An Evening with Illustrator Bill Slavin



Where: Millbrook Legion Hall
When: 7pm - 9pm

Millbrook author, artist and illustrator Bill Slavin will be our special guest as we celebrate Heritage Week. Come and discover with us Bill's take on the past, his views on the present, and how history informs his work and fascinates him in his spare time.

911: STORIES FROM CAVAN MONAGHAN FIRST RESPONDERS - A RECAP

On October 12th, about thirty community members, including representatives from the Millbrook Cavan Firefighters' Association, joined MCHS for tours of the Old Firehall Museum and an hour of storytelling at the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 402

The Millbrook Cavan Firefighters' Association is well known for its engaging community events, such as "Touch a Truck" and their charitable drives to benefit local organizations and people who are in need. From putting up the Christmas Tree for all to enjoy to celebrating the its members' contributions upon their retirement or milestone anniversaries, the Association has left an indelible mark for good on the Township.

In addition to their charity work, the Millbrook Cavan Firefighters' Association provides a place for members to debrief after tough calls, a place to come together with like-minded colleagues who have a unique understanding of the stressors, rewards, and challenges of being a first responder. When the Historical Society paid the members a visit this Fall, it was apparent that this organization is a diverse group, comprised of current firefighters and retirees, people from all backgrounds, newcomers and locals.

We were pleased to be joined by former Fire Chief Ted Buck and his wife Gayle. Those in attendance expressed deep gratitude for the work the firefighters have done and continue to do in the community.

To begin the conversation, MCHS president Celia Hunter invited each of the table groups to take a look at news items and images photocopied from the newspapers of the day, reporting on some of the fires and disasters attended by our local brigade. Personal stories brought history to life and illustrated the crucial service provided to the community by our volunteer firefighters. Almost always, they are first on the scene; first responders indeed. Thanks to the Millbrook Cavan Firefighters' Association for making this event such a success.



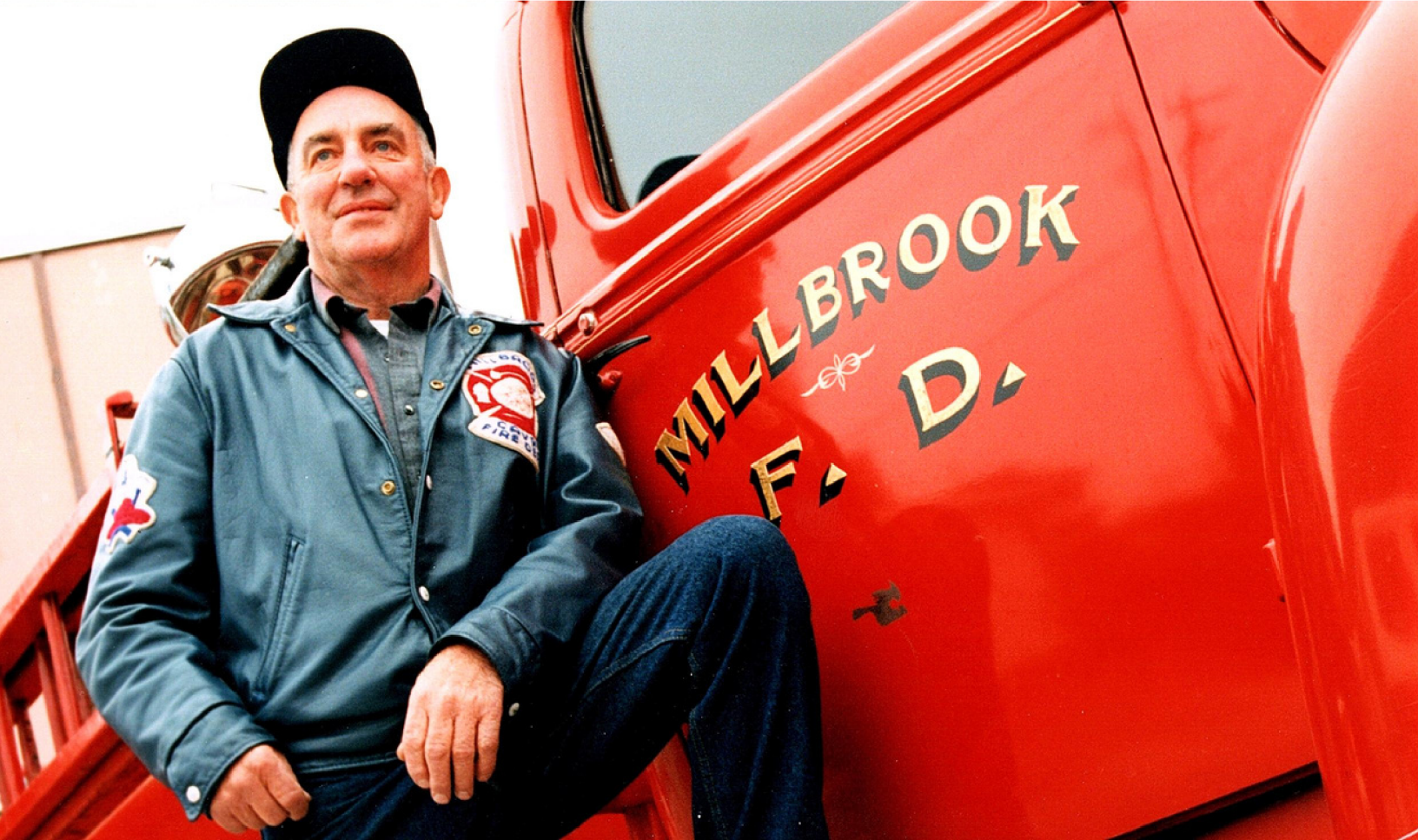
Millbrook Cavan Firefighters' Association President, Adam Goyne, shares a moment with long-time MCHS member Liz Avery.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MILLBROOK CAVAN FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION



*You can discover more about the Millbrook Cavan Firefighters' Association and their community initiatives, as well as the history of firefighting in the Township at:
facebook.com/millbrookcavanfirefighters*



SEPT 30, 2001
Fire Prevention "OPEN HOUSE"

History
MILLBROOK AND CAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Renew Your MCHS Membership Today!

Help bring local history to life through community events, the maintenance and digitization of our collection, and preservation initiatives.



Individual Memberships are just \$15. Join as a family for \$25.
Drop off membership forms and payment by cash/cheque at CM
Libraries or complete the form online and pay by e-transfer.



millbrookcavanhs.org

TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF CAVAN MONAGHAN FIREFIGHTING

1960

In 1960, a fire in the McDowell Building (where the hardware store and Masonic Hall now stand) required the services of "5" departments to stop the blaze from consuming the entire south side of the main street.



In 1967, the fire department lost one of their tankers when a rented garage where it was stored burnt.

1967

1968

In 1968, a new fire hall was built on King Street beside Baxter Creek which became and still is "Station 1".



December 4th 1975, a propane explosion at the Steenburg house completely destroyed the house and damaged numerous surrounding buildings. The explosion blew out 1,990 windows and caused \$500,000 damage. The blast was heard as far away as Springville and showed on a seismograph in Cobourg. It was noted that it would take 1000 sticks of dynamite to create a similar blast.

1967

1976

The village of Millbrook and Township of Cavan formed the "Millbrook-Cavan Fire Department".



A fire in the Beckers Building on King Street saw the first use of the new fire hydrant system in Millbrook as well as the first use of an aerial ladder from Peterborough.

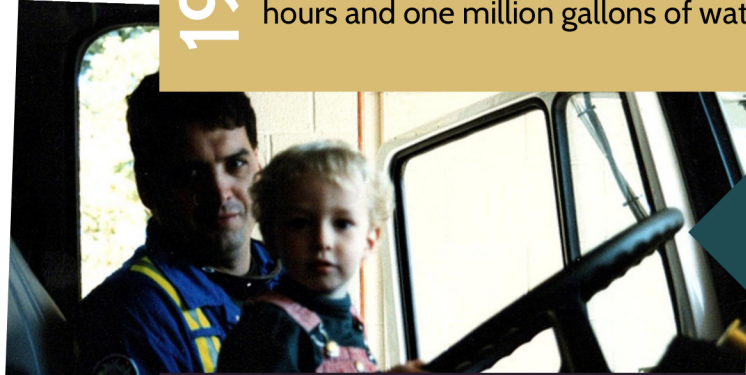
1977



TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN CAVAN MONAGHAN FIREFIGHTING CONT'D

1979

A fire blazes at Master Feeds on County Rd 10 just north of Hwy 115. Before it was over, more than 1,200 hours and one million gallons of water were needed.



1984

Fire protection in the north end of the Township was enhanced with the opening of Station #2 in Mount Pleasant.



1985

A powerful wind storm tore through the centre of the Township completely destroying the St. John's Ida church hall and causing heavy damage to the church itself and many other buildings.



1991

The department hires it's first full time fire chief. Robert Landry from Moosenee is chosen.

1993

the old fire hall is once again in service, this time as a museum operated by the Firefighters Association. The hall is open on holidays and special occasions to display our collection of antique fire apparatus and equipment.



Special thanks to the Firefighters' Association Members for supporting our event on October 12th, 2023 and providing access to their archives and the Museum.

*Images from the
wind storm of
May 1985.*



HERITAGE LIVING AT 37 KING STREET EAST

The Robert Deyell House has long been a building of architectural interest and historical significance in Cavan Monaghan. We caught up with the current owners, Art and Vera, who generously hosted the Deputy Mayor, members of the Heritage Committee, and Historical Society to re-install the heritage plaque and take a tour.



HERITAGE LIVING AT 37 KING STREET EAST CONT'D

Robert Deyell, one of five sons of John Deyell (the first settler in the township) built this beautiful two-storey brick veneer and frame house in 1870. The property extends from King Street to Dufferin Street, and once included a tennis court and summerhouse.

This house is a mature version of the Italian villa style described in Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books. With clapboard siding, it features a Tuscan tower with wrought iron cresting, a hipped roof with deeply overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets, and a side verandah. The current owners have painstakingly recreated and replaced the wrought iron cresting and it is now restored to its original glory.

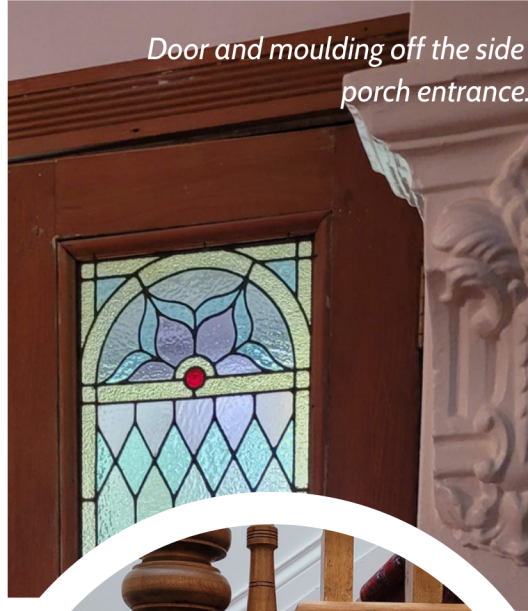
This house was used as a funeral parlour for the first time in 1945 when then owner George T. MacPherson purchased the furniture store and undertaking business in downtown Millbrook. He sold the property to John Wallace Haw in 1954. The J. Wallace Haw Funeral Home was purchased by Comstock's of Peterborough in 1965, and continued operating until 1972, when the house became a private residence once more, with spells as a cooking school and fine dining establishment, and as a B&B. You can see some of the menus from that era in the images to the right, which now hang in the kitchen as a reminder of the home's past.



HERITAGE LIVING AT 37 KING STREET EAST CONT'D



Beautiful, original woodwork on the main staircase has been lovingly restored.



Door and moulding off the side porch entrance.



Fireplace in main salon.



Servant's staircase.



Sitting room facing east.

History MILLBROOK AND CAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are grateful for the support of our business community and their owners, staff, and others who provide resources that are vital to the maintenance and growth of our programs, preservation initiatives, and ability to maintain the MCHS collection. This page is not exhaustive of all of the help we have received, it is reflective of the 2023/2024 season only.



We would like to extend special thanks to the Cavan Monaghan Libraries for their ongoing partnership.

Please consider supporting those that support us.

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A meaningful way to give back to your community.

Each level of support comes with unique perks and advertising opportunities. The affordable annual fees are a way you can help preserve our local history without a time commitment. Sponsorships provide monetary support for the digitization and preservation of our collections, heritage conservation initiatives, and more!



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