

*History*  
MILLBROOK AND CAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2024-2025

## Annual Report



P.O. Box 334, Millbrook, Ontario  
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[millbrookcavanhs.org](http://millbrookcavanhs.org)





Blocks & Blooms, June 15, 2024

*History*  
MILLBROOK AND CAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 2024-2025

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**We recognize that, as an organization that tells the stories and records the activities of those who came here from other places, we gather on the treaty and traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishnaabeg. We welcome the knowledge and wisdom they bring to us, thank them for their teachings, and honour their stewardship of these lands. We seek always to make right our relationship and deepen our connections.**

*History*  
MILLBROOK AND CAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**INCORPORATED JUNE 12, 1987**  
**AFFILIATED MEMBER # 2668, THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**1 DUFFERIN STREET, P.O. BOX 334, MILLBROOK, ON L0A 1G0**  
**www.millbrookcavanhs.org      millbrookcavanhs@gmail.com**

**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.

**2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Celia Hunter	Treasurer	Rosemary Bushell
Director	Dan Bourgeois	Director	Karla Buckborough
Director	Alex Bushell	Director	John Collver
Director	Rachel Finnie (to April 2025)	Director	Lance Nachoff
Director	Peter Ramsay (to March 2025)		

**AGENDA  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MAY 27, 2025**

1. Welcome
2. **Motion** to approve the agenda as printed
3. **Motion** to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of May 16, 2024
4. Honouring the memory of Peter Ramsay
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report:
  - Financial Review 2024-2025
  - Budget for 2025-2026**Motion** to approve the proposed budget for 2025-2026.
7. Presentation of By-law No.1, a by-law relating generally to the conduct of the affairs of Millbrook-Cavan Historical Society. **Motion** to adopt By-Law No. 1.
8. Election of the Board of Directors for 2025-2026  
Note: There are to be a maximum of 10 members on the Board of Directors  
  
Nominations to the Board of Directors from the Nominating Chair:  
Dan Bourgeois, Karla Buckborough, Alex Bushell, Rosemary Bushell, John Collver, Celia Hunter, Lance Nachoff.  
  
Nominations from the floor, with a mover and seconder for each  
**Motion** to close nominations  
**Motion** to approve the nominations to the Board of Directors for 2025-2026.
9. Acknowledgements
10. **Motion** to adjourn Annual General Meeting.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, May 16, 2024,  
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 402 Hall, King St.E., Millbrook, ON**

**Board members in attendance:** Karla Buckborough, Rosemary Bushell, John Collver, Rachel Finnie, Celia Hunter, Lance Nachoff, Peter Ramsay. Regrets: Dan Bourgeois, Alex Bushell.

**The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.**

- 1. Welcome** extended to members and guests by President Celia Hunter.
- 2. Motion** to approve the agenda as printed: Glen Spurrell; Rachel Finnie. Carried.
- 3. Motion** to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of May 25, 2023: Rachel Finnie; Colum Diamond. Carried.
- 4. Motion** to appoint Glen Spurrell as Nominating Chair for the meeting: Doug Hunter; Ruth Roberts. Carried.
- 5. President's Report – Highlights:**
  - speakers Diane Chin, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Cobourg and East Northumberland branch; Bill Slavin, multi-award-winning artist and author; Tom Mohr, Ontario Archeological Society Peterborough chapter.
  - October 2023: a celebration of our local volunteer firefighters, including tours of the Firefighters Association Museum in the historic Old Firehall.
  - Trivia Nights in November and March, emceed by Rachel Finnie, introduced MCHS to newcomers to the area and a younger demographic.
  - Two free afternoon presentations at the Millbrook branch of Cavan Monaghan Libraries focused on local history.
  - Maintenance of Needler's Mill: thanks go to Mike Lachapelle, Alex Bushell and Robert Jackson. Additional thanks to Mike for installation of the memorial panel, honouring Shirley "Sally" Hall.
  - Presentations to Community Care Luncheon gathering and the area B.I.A.
  - Continued work on digitizing and cataloguing documents, newspapers and photographs; receiving donations of family histories and records; responding to queries.
  - Regular communications through a monthly column (Here & Now) in the Millbrook Times and additional coming events news; social media posts; website updates and expansion.
- 6. Membership Report:** presented as printed in the Annual Report.
- 7. Collection Additions:** presented as printed in the Annual Report.
- 8. Treasurer's Report** – Rosemary Bushell presented the Financial Report and proposed a budget for the year 2023-2024. **Motion** to accept the Financial Report and approve the proposed budget: Doug Hunter; Karla Buckborough. Carried.



### 9. Election of New Board of Directors for 2024-2025

Glen Spurrell, as nominating chair, presented the slate for the Board of Directors for 2024-2025: Dan Bourgeois, Karla Buckborough, Alex Bushell, Rosemary Bushell, John Collver, Rachel Finnie, Celia Hunter, Lance Nachoff, Peter Ramsay, and called for additional nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations.

**Motion** to close nominations: Rachel Finnie; Ruth Roberts. Carried.

**Motion** to accept the nominations for the Board of Directors as received through the Nominating Chair: Colum Diamond; Elaine Trotter. Carried.

**10. Acknowledgements** as printed in the Annual Report were expressed by Celia Hunter.

**11. Motion** to adjourn: Glen Spurrell; Karla Buckborough.  
The Annual Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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Celebrating local heritage, February 21, 2025. Special guest speakers George Sheppard with Robert Winslow, and Joanne Rowland with JoEllen Brydon.

## Honouring the Memory of Peter Ramsay



The Millbrook-Cavan Historical Society lost a much-valued friend, colleague and former president on March 3, when Peter Ramsay passed away at home, at age 87, with his daughters at his side.

Peter was a tireless champion of local history, and passionate about our rich architectural heritage, as manifested in the pictorial book *Significant Architecture of Millbrook* which he edited. He fiercely supported heritage designation as a way to safeguard the integrity of our local architectural legacy.

Peter loved this community and was an active member and sometime leader of the area Garden Club, the Municipal Revitalization and Heritage Advisory Committee, and our own Historical Society. He was also a devoted family man, a successful graphic designer and talented craftsperson, a dog-lover, and a good neighbour. He was instrumental in the development of the Deyell Parkette, on the hillside, just west of the Old Millbrook School.

Peter delighted in the excellence of fine craftsmanship. His eyes lit up at the prospect of a winning bid on a finely wrought tool that he could add to his collection. His eyes also lit up as he greeted you at the door, or on a walk in the village, or on the Millbrook Valley Trails.



Peter and his wife Anne arrived in Millbrook in 2001. Originally both from Toronto, Peter moved his family to Peterborough in 1975, and established his own graphic design studio. His skill in applied art and his creativity took him well beyond his successful business, out of the office and into the garden where he worked contours and colours into a living tapestry, enhanced by examples of his other inspired pastime as a stain glass artist. Whimsical corners of his garden featured intriguing doorways and panels of beautiful stain glass. Some of Peter's creations can be found in a number of heritage homes in Millbrook and the surrounding area. We are honoured today to receive one of Peter's stain glass panels, donated to MCHS in his memory by daughters Cris and Jen. It will be installed at the Old Millbrook School as a lasting memorial.

Remembering Peter's love of trees and gardening, a memorial tree will be planted next to the Community Garden on the Old Millbrook School grounds. We will also dedicate our upcoming Heritage Millbrook Self-Guided Tour booklet to his memory.

We miss him very much.



## President's Report



This very busy year began with our fundraiser, Blocks & Blooms. The event, held June 15, showcased heritage properties, exceptional gardens and both heirloom and contemporary quilts, with ticket holders invited to spend a day in and around Millbrook. The event was extremely successful. Thanks go to my co-workers on the

organizing team: Kate deKlerck, Rachel Finnie, Mary Preston and Glen Spurrell. Our brilliant brand designer was Cory Cole. We received generous support from event sponsor Nexicom, and presenting sponsor 4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre, as well as from area businesses and organizations. The day was successful because of the enthusiastic collaborations and cooperation from all the parties involved. It was truly a community effort.

Our keynote speaker for our Annual Meeting in May was Alderville First Nation historian Brian Beaver. On November 1, Dan Bourgeois hosted an evening gathering to celebrate the adventures and achievements of Glenn Fallis, founding owner of the Voyageur Canoe Company. Glenn's presentation to a full house of enthusiastic listeners focused on the 1967 Centennial Voyageur Canoe Pageant. In February, we celebrated our local heritage as 4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre founder Robert Winslow shone the spotlight on George Sheppard, and Joanne Rowland, with JoEllen Brydon, reviewed the social activism of the 1980s through to the early years of this century, that sparked local rallies, demonstrations, petitions and the Give-A-Hoot Café. Rachel Finnie emceed our All-Canadian Trivia Night in early April, and a week later, we learned from the team *Nine Ships 1825*, about the Peter Robinson Emigration Project that brought more than 2,000 Irish settlers 200 years ago to what was to become Peterborough.



We are deeply grateful for our relationship with CM Libraries, and thank the librarians for their support. We continued this year with our daytime programming, with presentations at each of the Cavan Monaghan Libraries, and also co-hosted with the library a monthly afternoon drop-in session to explore genealogy tools including the library's Ancestry program, collect oral histories, and discuss topics relating to our local history. The exhibits in our display cabinet at the Millbrook branch were curated by Peter and Cris Ramsay until Peter's passing. Bernie Hancock has graciously stepped up and offered his time, talents and items from his own considerable collection. His antique trucks and trains are a big hit with the young library patrons!

As noted in the Collection Update on page 7 of this Report, Dan Bourgeois has taken the lead on digitizing documents and newspapers in the collection. He has also researched the equipment needed to get the job done, in addition to researching and writing a monthly column, *Now & Then*, for the Millbrook Times. Kim McLeod, our archivist and genealogist, has been kept busy with inquiries and donations, as well as the continuing work of cataloguing the collection.

Repairs to the porch eavestrough and downspout were made at Needler's Mill, which served in the summer as a location for filming scenes for the Netflix series *Wayward*.

We continue to enjoy the support of our members and supporters as they contribute ideas for programming and participate in projects. We are particularly grateful for our volunteer webmaster, Bruce Gazley, who is unceasingly helpful, skillful, and encouraging. The Board of Directors has worked hard this past year. Thank you Dan, Karla, Alex, Rosemary, John and Lance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Celia Hunter', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Celia Hunter

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## Membership Report

Year ending April 30, 2025:

24 Family Memberships (2 or more members) + 18 Single Memberships

Membership Fees: family \$25 p.a.; single \$15 p.a.; student \$5 p.a.

## Collections Update

From Dan Bourgeois:

The Millbrook and Cavan Historical Society has a fairly large collection of documents accumulated over the years. This includes a variety of documents ranging from personal papers, photo collections, township assessment rolls and other indexes. There are also approximately 1700 newspaper copies in the collection.

A number of years ago, many documents were scanned and stored electronically, including a number of the older newspapers. These are archived by the Ontario Genealogical Society, who had provided the resources to carry out the scanning of this material. However, there remains a large number of documents to archive electronically. In this past year we have been working to digitize the remaining newspapers. The ultimate goal is to have the digital archives available for online review.

The initial goal is to scan those newspapers not already part of the digital record. Thus far, approximately 360 newspapers have been scanned, using the scanner at the Millbrook branch of Cavan Monaghan Libraries.

Recently, MCHS has purchased a new scanner which will allow for the scanning of materials of larger size, including older newspapers in the broadsheet format. Once familiarized with the use of the new scanner, it is hoped that volunteers can be recruited to help with the scanning project.

From Kim McLeod:

The scanning of newspapers continues to be a vital resource when answering questions that come into the Historical Society mailbox. Most recently, in response to a request for information about William James Tremaine, who died at age 87 in 1959, we were able to provide a newspaper obituary which revealed that Tremaine had been a carriage maker with a shop on Tupper Street and sang in the choir at St. Andrew's United Church (now the Millbrook Cathedral).

What other kinds of request do we get? Do we have any pictures of Springville in the 1980's - sadly we don't. Can you tell us where members of the Holmes family who died in the mid 1800's are buried - yes! They rest in the Centreville Cemetery in the hamlet of South Monaghan.

We have also been involved in partnering with other organizations. The archives resources have been used to provide Cavan Monaghan Township with information about the cemeteries at Springville and on the Stewart Line, which are now managed by the Township. We are also providing assistance as the Township updates the cultural map of properties in the township. The cultural map, first produced in 2011, is now being updated and expanded.

As part of the generous donation received from Joan and Ivor Banks, the Historical Society received a collection of reference books about searching Irish ancestors. That collection has been passed to the Manvers Historical Society which has recently opened a research centre. The books will be part of the collection available to researchers using this new facility.

We would like to express our gratitude to the many individuals who over the past year have donated materials to the archives; from postcards to school pictures to family histories, they all help build the story of the Township and the families who lived here.

## Treasurer's Report

Rosemary Bushell

**Millbrook Cavan Historical Society  
Financial Report for the year ended April 30 2025  
Budget for 2025-2026**

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Donations General	\$1,000	\$2,303	\$1,000
Book Sales	-	153	50
Individual Memberships	900	870	850
Corporate Sponsors	600	0	500
Collection Sales and Other Income	200	0	100
Event Income Blocks and Blooms (net of expense)	1,500	3,044	-
Event Income (net of expense)	400	176	330
Bank Interest	-	6	-
Heritage Booklet (Note 1)	-	-	-
	<u>4,600</u>	<u>6,552</u>	<u>2,830</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Insurance	2,000	1,177	1,200
Archives and Collections Maintenance	400	53	150
Computer and Tech Support (Note 2)		1,393	900
Community Outreach	60	170	75
Newsletters and Office Supplies	200	140	200
Membership - OHS	65	65	65
Needler's Mill Maintenance	400	1,404	500
Meeting Costs/Speakers	1,200	1,480	1,300
Memorial Trees (Note 3)			600
	<u>4,325</u>	<u>5,882</u>	<u>4,990</u>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenses</b>	<u>\$275</u>	<u>\$670</u>	<u>(\$2,160)</u>
<b>Extraordinary Income and Disbursements</b>			
Donation of excess funds - Barn Quilt	-	2,360	-
Set Location Fee	-	4,500	-
Food Bank Donation		<u>(520)</u>	
<b>Net Extraordinary Income and Disbursements</b>		<u>6,340</u>	
<b>Cash on Hand</b>			
Opening Balance - May 1, 2024	\$7,371		
Excess of Income over Expenses	670		
Blocks and Blooms Expenses deferred in 2024	724		
Net Extraordinary Income and Disbursements	<u>6,340</u>		
Closing Cash Balance - April 30, 2025	<u>\$15,105</u>		

(Notes page 10)



Note 1: It is anticipated that the cost of producing the Heritage Millbrook Walking Tour booklet will be offset by revenue from advertising and sponsorship.

Note 2: Budget amount includes costs of a new scanner and software for the computer purchased in 2024-2025. These purchases were funded using the Set Location Fee received in August 2024.

Note 3: A tree is to be planted in memory of long time Historical Society member and past president Peter Ramsay. A second tree is to be planted in memory of Larry Lamb, to replace the original tree that has died.

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## **Acknowledgements:**

The Board of the Millbrook & Cavan Historical Society would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following individuals, organizations and businesses who have shown extraordinary support for MCHS:

Bruce Gazley

Nexicom

Millbrook Mercantile

The family of Peter Ramsay

Millbrook Farm, Pet and Garden Supply

The Joneses – Charlotte Clements

Millbrook Home Hardware

4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre

Kim McLeod

Cory Cole

Cavan Monaghan Libraries

Br. 402, Royal Canadian Legion

Township of Cavan Monaghan

Mike Lachapelle, Freelance Quality

Renovations

Mitchel's Cake & Dessert Company

Thank you to all who have donated to the MCHS collection of archived material this year, and to all who have volunteered time and talents, contributing to our mandate and objectives.

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**Contact us:** [millbrookcavanhs@gmail.com](mailto:millbrookcavanhs@gmail.com)

**Find us on Facebook**

**Keep up to date at [millbrookcavanhs.org](http://millbrookcavanhs.org)**

**Join us!**

**Membership forms are available at Cavan Monaghan libraries,  
on line and by request.**

**Memberships for 2025-26 due September 2025.**