

Heritage Speakers Series Collective

Meeting Date: Thursday May 15, 2025 – 5:00-6:00pm
Location: Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre, 62 Temperance Street

Attendees: J. Moore, F. Langmaid, L. Bryan, R. Hooper, T. Welch, M. Morawetz, H. Ridge
Regrets: S. Leetooze, K. Warren, J. Gardner

Minutes

1. Welcome

The meeting began at 5:09pm.

H. Ridge welcomed the members in attendance and thanked them for volunteering their time for the Heritage Speakers Series Collective.

2. Round Table Introductions

The collective members introduced themselves and shared their respective committee and group affiliations and passions for local history.

3. Terms of Reference

H. Ridge reviewed the Terms of Reference for the collective. Copies were circulated in print and will also be available electronically for members not in attendance.

4. Goals and Objectives

H. Ridge outlined the success of the most recent Golden Tales oral history project and the desire to build upon the results of that initiative. A proposal has been submitted to the Seniors Community Grant Fund to request funding for a 3-part project including: collecting oral histories of local veterans; a speaker series to focus on local war history and veterans; commemorative plaques to recognize Clarington's contributions to war efforts and remember veterans and their sacrifices.

CLMA will be moving ahead with the speakers series portion of the project regardless of the response to the grant application. The goal of the collective group is to garner ideas and suggestions of presenters for topics relating to veterans in Clarington. The ideas generated by the collective members will reflect the interests of the community and will be used to source local history enthusiasts and knowledgeable speakers.

5. Potential speakers and topics

L. Bryan has offered to share a presentation building upon previous presentations he has provided for Remembrance Day. His presentations focus on local veterans and remembering their legacy. He is also working on a new project regarding Vimy Oak trees which could be a nice connection to speak about. He enjoys sharing his passion for military history with the community through his presentations.

S. Leetooze (not in attendance) has also offered to provide a local history presentation. She has also provided many historical presentations in the past which have been very popular with the community.

M. Morawetz pointed out that the Jury Lands Foundation is also holding a series of speaker presentations through the months of May and June. This is a part of the JLF's Trillium funding and on-going initiatives for the Camp 30 site. She pointed out that we will need to ensure the branding is clear so the initiatives are not confusing to the public.

A few members shared potential ideas for interesting topics:

- home front efforts during the war – farmers staying home to grow crops at the request of the government
- female workers on farms during WWII – billeted in the Niagara region on fruit farms. Potentially local stories could connect
- local cemeteries and veterans buried there – possibly Bowmanville or Bond Head
- home front perspective of children's roles during the war and also legacies of war efforts like recycling
- other war related legacies like the Veteran's Ave houses connection to Camp 30, or the veteran street names in Clarington.

6. Dates

H. Ridge circulated a list of potential dates through July and August. It was noted that the Concerts in the Park will be held on Thursday nights throughout the summer starting on June 19th. The members discussed other dates that might work, or if Thursdays could still work with timing that did not conflict with the concerts.

It has been suggested that we consider offering the talks on Saturday afternoons at the Museum sites, from 2:30-3:30pm.

Potential Dates:

- Saturday July 12
- Saturday July 26
- Saturday August 16
- Saturday August 23
- Saturday September 6
- Saturday September 20

7. Next meeting date

H. Ridge will circulate a list of future meeting dates by email for the group to offer their availability for a next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 6:05pm.