

# OLD NEWS

PELHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 903, Fonthill, Ontario LOS 1E0

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HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!

April 14, 2023

If you missed our meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> you missed a very interesting presentation by David Cowan the President of “The Friends of the Beaverdams Church”, who spoke on the early history of the church and of its restoration. The following is just a short summary of Mr. Cowan’s presentation.

The Beaverdams Methodist Church opened in 1832 but by 1840 with the completion of the second Welland Canal, mills began to be built between the two lakes and people moved to where the new jobs were hence decimating the Beaverdams population. The church struggled on and by 1890 the congregation disbands with only the Sunday School continuing until the mid 1980’s. Seeing that the church was in such poor condition, some well meaning people got together and started “The Friends of the Beaverdams Church” knowing that if something wasn’t done soon the church building would no longer exist. In 2013 a not for profit corporate status was granted to the organization and in 2014 the church and its cemetery were purchased from the City of Thorold for \$2. and the massive fundraising and restoration began. Through many yearly fundraisers and donations from 2014 to the present the church was completed on the outside and is almost finished inside. You can follow “The Friends of the Beaverdams Church” on Facebook to see when their fundraisers are taking place and get a chance to see all the photos of the restoration that has taken place inside and outside the church.

**This Month’s Meeting**  
**Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm**  
**Kirk On the Hill Church**  
**“Helen Kinnear – Legal Pioneer”**  
**Speaker: Michelle Vosburgh**

**\*See the following page on information for Cemetery Tours in May with Michelle.**

**Next Month’s Meeting**  
**Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm**  
**Kirk On The Hill Church**  
**“The Land at the Crest of the Hill” Part 2**  
**Speaker: Graham Segger**