



June 2024 Newsletter #2

Monday, June 10, 2024

Our May/June meeting featured a very well attended visit and guided tour of the fully restored Beaverdams Church in Thorold on June 8, 2024. Our visit was a great opportunity to honour and appreciate the work of the dedicated volunteers who made this transformation possible.

Upcoming Meetings

Temperance and Taverns in Pelham Township

Saturday, September 21, 2024, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Pelham Historical Society members Geoff Bowden and Graham Segger will co-present on the closely related topics of the Taverns and the Temperance Movement in early Pelham Township.

They will review the lusty history of the many early Travelers' Inns and Taverns in Pelham and trace the evolution of the 19th century Temperance Movement which turned Pelham into one of the driest communities in all of Canada for close to 100 years.

Temperance Societies, Women and the several of the Church joined forces as crusaders against intoxication and the social ills which it spawned.

Exploring Black History in Lincoln & Welland County

Saturday, October 19, 2024, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Rochelle Bush, Resident Historian of the Salem Chapel, BME Church and Harriet Tubman Underground Railway National Historic Sites will speak to us about early Black History in Lincoln and Welland Counties.

Annual General Meeting and Faces of Pelham Before WW2, Saturday

November 23, 2024, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

A presentation of videos assembled by Carolyn Botari; Collections Coordinator of the Pelham Historical Society will follow our Annual General Meeting. One of the videos documents the area near the corner of Pelham Street and Highway #20 in August 1946 and the other is a series of short clips filmed in 1939.

Historical Fires of Welland, Saturday, March 22, 2025, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Lisa Mooney, Executive Director, Welland Museum will describe the physical and social impact of some of the devastating fires which have occurred in Welland County.

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A Brief History of Rails in Pelham

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

PHS Member David Sherlock has a great passion for the past rail network of Niagara. He will explain how two rail systems passed through Pelham and another almost connected those two.

The Story of the Brown Homestead

Saturday, May 24, 2025, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

PHS Member and Director of Community Engagement at the Brown Homestead Jessica Linzel will provide a history of and future plans for the Brown Homestead. The farmhouse is the oldest home in St. Catharines and is located only 100 metres from the north-east border of the Town of Pelham.

A Beginning but no End? The Debate over the Southern Terminus of the Welland Canal

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

PHS Member and Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum Archivist Michelle Vosburgh will present a fascinating account of one of the myriad of sub-plots surrounding the building of the Canal.

As you can see, we have a very ambitious agenda ahead of us. We all wish you a safe and enjoyable summer. We'll meet again in the fall.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Olson