



May 9, 2025 Newsletter

Dear Members of the Pelham Historical Society

It is no easy thing to stay focused when spring has arrived with all the growth and vibrant colours, but we have just one meeting before our summer break.

Your Executive is considering the Meeting Schedule for 2026 and you are invited to submit topics that may be of particular interest. We have suggestions of a genealogy presentation and a presentation on the local railways.

The February meeting will once again be the popular Members Interest event. Members are invited to make a five-minute presentation on topics of interest. I hope to present on the Barry's Bay railway station. Some of you might be familiar with this station because it still stands along with the water tank.

Here is your friendly reminder about our next meeting.

The Story of the Brown Homestead

May 24, 2025, at 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Kirk on the Hill, 1344 Haist Street, Lower Level, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada

Member Jessica Linzel, Director of Community Engagement at the Brown Homestead, will describe some of the history of the Brown Homestead and the efforts to preserve and refurbish it. 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.

The Brown Homestead was settled around 1785 by Loyalist John Brown and his family. This historic site features the John Brown House, the oldest home in St. Catharines, a two-storey stone house built in 1802 and incorporating an earlier 1-1/2 storey house (ca. 1796). It is also the home of the Norton Cabin (ca. 1817), built by Mohawk chief Teyoninhokarawen (John Norton), which was moved to the homestead in 1997 to save it from demolition.

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The Brown Homestead charity was established in 2015 to purchase and preserve the house and to reimagine it as a community gathering place that will serve as an engine of progress and development.

Happy Mothers' Day

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Olson