

*History*  
MILLBROOK AND CAVAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2023-2024

Annual Report



[millbrookcavanhs.org](http://millbrookcavanhs.org)

**We acknowledge that, as an organization that tells the stories and records the activities of those who came here from other places, we gather on the traditional territory of the Anishnabek Mississauga peoples. 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.**



**Cover photo:** From as far away as Calgary, family and friends came to honour the memory of Shirley “Sally” Hall, 1939-2021. “Sally” was the daughter of Dora Tripp and Gordon Robinson, stepdaughter of Cam Perritt. Sandra Hall welcomed the gathering to dedicate to her mother’s memory a panel commissioned by the family and installed at Needler’s Mill that illustrates, with photographer David Sweeney’s images, what the mill produced and how it operated. Ruth Roberts provided musical accompaniment for the occasion.

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Annual Report 2023-2024

Contents:

Mandate & Objectives, 2022 Board of Directors	Page 1
Agenda, Annual General Meeting, May 16, 2024,	2
Minutes, AGM, May 25, 2023,	3
President's Report	5
Membership Report	8
Collection Update	8
Treasurer's Report, Proposed Budget 2023-2024	9
Acknowledgements	10

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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.

**2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Celia Hunter	Treasurer	Rosemary Bushell
Director	Dan Bourgeois	Director	Karla Buckborough
Director	Alex Bushell	Director	John Collver
Director	Rachel Finnie	Director	Matthew Fusco (to Feb 2024)
Director	Lance Nachoff	Director	Peter Ramsay

**AGENDA**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**MAY 16, 2024**

1. Welcome
2. **Motion** to approve the agenda as printed
3. **Motion** to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of May 25, 2023
4. **Motion** to appoint a Nominating Chair for the Meeting
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report:
  - Financial Review 2023-2024
  - Budget for 2024-2025**Motion** to approve the proposed budget for 2024-2025.
7. Election of the Board of Directors for 2024-2025  
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, Rachel Finnie, Celia Hunter, Lance Nachoff, Peter Ramsay.  
  
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 2024-2025.
8. Acknowledgements
9. **Motion** to adjourn Annual General Meeting.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, May 25, 2023,  
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 402 Hall, King St.E., Millbrook, ON**

**Members of the Board in Attendance:** Rosemary Bushell, Rachel Finnie, Celia Hunter, Lance Nachoff, Peter Ramsay. **Regrets:** Alex Bushell.

**The meeting was called to order at 7:18 pm.**

- 1. Welcome** extended to members and guests by President Celia Hunter.
- 2. Motion** to approve the agenda as printed: Lance Nachoff; Kim McLeod. Carried.
- 3. Motion** to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of November 14, 2022: Lance Nachoff; George Raab. Carried.
- 4. Motion** to appoint Kim McLeod as Nominating Chair for the meeting: John Collver; Rachel Finnie. Carried.

**5. President's Report** – In the six months since our catch-up, post-COVID19 Annual Meeting of November 2022, the Historical Society has moved the Archives and Collection to a portion of the Millbrook Branch of Cavan Monaghan Libraries with the long-term goal of collaborating with the library to make the information held in the collection more accessible to the public. MCHS has also held well attended programs featuring speakers Robert Winslow, founder of 4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre, and D'Arcy Jenish, Canadian author, journalist, and playwright. We held our first, very successful Trivia Night in March, the brainchild of one of our directors, Rachel Finnie. As Communications lead, Rachel has made our Facebook presence lively and engaging and is working with our webmaster Bruce Gazley to make the website more accessible and informative.

Soon after our last Annual Meeting, we were deeply saddened by the passing of former Board member Bruce Lepper. World champion bird carver and mentor to many, Bruce was not only an artist but also a community booster, passionate about heritage and local history. MCHS partnered with the municipal Heritage Advisory Board to have a custom-made birdhouse installed at the Community Garden in Bruce's memory.

**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: Kim McLeod; Lance Nachoff. Carried.

## 9. Election of New Board of Directors for 2023-2024

Kim McLeod, as nominating chair, presented the slate for the Board of Directors for 2023-2024: Alex Bushell, Rosemary Bushell, John Collver, Rachel Finnie, Celia Hunter, Lance Nachoff, Peter Ramsay, and called for additional nominations from the floor.

Nominations from the floor:

- i. Karla Buckborough, nominated by Joanne Rowland; Dan Bourgeois. Carried.
- ii. Matthew Fusco, nominated by Glen Spurrell; Robert Ross. Carried.
- iii. Dan Bourgeois, nominated by Kim McLeod; Joanne Rowland. Carried.

**Motion** to close nominations: Glen Spurrell; Liz Avery. Carried.

**Motion** to accept the nominations for the Board of Directors as received through the Nominating Chair: Glen Spurrell; Liz Avery. Carried.

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

**11. Motion** to adjourn: Kim McLeod; Joanne Rowland.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.



Trivia Nights are all about a little history and a lot of fun.



## President's Report

I extend thanks to an active and engaged Board of Directors, enthusiastic and supportive members, and the many inquisitive and receptive newcomers who have helped us realize a very successful year.



Our membership numbers have grown and so has engagement through social media. Our website has been refreshed and updated by our volunteer webmaster Bruce Gazley, working in collaboration with Board member Rachel Finnie. For the first time we welcomed corporate sponsors: thank you to Whale Chiropractic, 4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre and the Township of Cavan Monaghan for their support.

We have enjoyed hosting excellent speakers this year: Diane Chin from the Cobourg and East Northumberland Architectural Conservancy of Ontario; award-winning artist and author Bill Slavin; and Tom Mohr from the Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society. In October, we celebrated our local volunteer firefighters with an evening of stories related to some of the catastrophic events recorded in our historical records and had an opportunity to tour the Firefighters Association Museum in the Old Fire Hall, a designated heritage building.



Needler's Mill, owned by MCHS, required some exterior sanding and painting, and a little additional maintenance. Thank you to volunteer Robert Jackson, Board member Alex Bushell and particularly, Mike Lachapelle who volunteered time and skills for repairs at the mill and for the installation of the memorial panel dedicated to the memory of Shirley "Sally" Hall. This information panel was donated by the Hall and Davis families to honour "Sally", a passionate supporter and enthusiastic participant in Millbrook community events. The panel features photographs by David Sweeney of some of the machinery that is housed in the mill and gives a brief description of how it all worked. (Photo: front cover)

We have also had the opportunity this year to speak to audiences about what MCHS does and about aspects of our local history at two afternoon presentations hosted by the Millbrook Branch of Cavan Monaghan Libraries, at Kawartha Downs for a Community Care luncheon, and at a Business Improvement Association breakfast.

A major focus this past year has been on developing our catalogue so that, in collaboration with Cavan Monaghan Libraries, we can make information held in our archives more easily accessible to the public. Digitizing documents, newspapers and photographs continues. Volunteer Kim McLeod leads this project with Dan Bourgeois assisting. Dan has also taken on the writing of a regular column for the Millbrook Times.



Dan Bourgeois, Kim McLeod

Trivia Nights in November and March drew enthusiastic participants, many of whom were getting their first look at MCHS. This is important outreach, introducing local history to both newcomers to the area and a younger demographic. Directors Rachel Finnie and Dan Bourgeois took the lead for these events; thank you!



Finally, to expand our programming, facilitate our database project, and upgrade equipment and technology for our presentations, a fundraiser is just the thing. Building on the success of Blocks & Blooms in 2018, a small team began planning almost a year ago for our June 15 event, a self-guided tour to 11 exceptional gardens, heritage homes and properties in and around Millbrook, together with a spectacular exhibit of both heirloom and contemporary quilts. Blocks & Blooms 2024 is now just weeks away, excitement is building, and tickets are selling well.

Thanks to our hard-working team: Kate deKlerck, Rachel Finnie, Mary Preston, Glen Spurrell, and graphic artist Cory Cole; our event sponsor Nexicom; corporate sponsors 4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre, Whale Chiropractic, the Township of Cavan Monaghan; our ticket agents Moody's (Millbrook), Avant-Garden Shop (Peterborough) and Holton Flowers (Port Hope); and our business supporters in the community. We are also very grateful for the enthusiasm and hard work of those who have agreed to participate in Blocks & Blooms, opening their properties and gardens and airing their quilts. Thank you!

With help from all of you who come and contribute stories, questions, memorabilia, information, and energy to MCHS, we'll keep making history.

Respectfully submitted,



Celia Hunter



Honouring the service of our volunteer firefighters at our October 2023 gathering at the Royal Canadian Br. 402 Legion Hall.

## Membership Report

Year ending April 30, 2024:

27 Family Memberships (2 or more members) + 20 Single Memberships

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

## Collections Update

Submitted by Kim McLeod

Again, this year we were fortunate to receive a number of donations to the archives that enabled us to continue to build our collection. Highlights included Angie Strauss's collection of photos and newspaper articles from the filming of *The Music Man* in 2002 and documents relating to the formation of the Fallis Line Telephone Company and Grace Presbyterian Church from the Estate of Brian Fallis.

Joan and Ivor Banks, long time supporters of the Historical Society, made the drive from Ottawa to deliver the extensive family histories of the McIvor, Lowry, Windel and Ball families that they have put together over the past 20 years. They have also generously donated their library of research books that help provide context for anyone searching for their roots in Cavan Monaghan. Joan is a direct descendant of Gordon McIvor who, in 1850, dammed the creek that runs between King and Anne Streets to create the factory pond where he ran his oatmeal mill. The millstone can be found in Grace Cemetery marking his grave, and he is featured on one of the information panels at the kiosk between Needler's Mill and the Millbrook Dam.

Board member and former president Peter Ramsay volunteers to fill our display case at the Millbrook Branch of Cavan Monaghan Libraries with an always intriguing and often surprising collection of keepsakes, souvenirs, conversation pieces and treasures that help connect today's audience to past generations.



# Treasurer's Report

Rosemary Bushell

**Millbrook Cavan Historical Society  
Financial Report for the year ended April 30  
Budget for 2024 - 2025**

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Donations General	\$1,000	\$1,672	\$1,000
Book Sales	-	45	-
Individual Memberships	900	1,040	900
Corporate Sponsors		598	600
Collection Sales and Other Income	700	271	200
Event Income (net of expenses)	500	330	1,900
	3,100	3,956	4,600
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Insurance	2,000	1,198	2,000
Archives and Collections Maintenance	200	51	400
Community Outreach	50	60	60
Newsletters and Office Supplies	300	175	200
Membership - OHS	65	65	65
Needler's Mill Maintenance		1,035	400
Website Maintenance	250		
Panel on Needler's Mill (Note 1)		961	
Meeting Costs/Speakers	600	870	1,200
Bruce Lepper Memorial	125	0	
	3,590	4,415	4,325
<b>Excess of Expenses Over Income</b>	(\$490)	(\$459)	\$275
<b>Cash on Hand</b>			
Opening Balance - May 1, 2023	\$8,554		
Excess of Expenses over Income April 2024	(459)		
Blocks and Blooms deferred revenue and expenses	(724)		
Closing Balance - April 30, 2024	\$7,371		

**Note**

1 The cost of the panel was offset by donations received in 2022.

## 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

Peter Ramsay

Millbrook Farm, Pet and Garden Supply

The Joneses

Millbrook Home Hardware

Kim McLeod

4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre

Cavan Monaghan Libraries

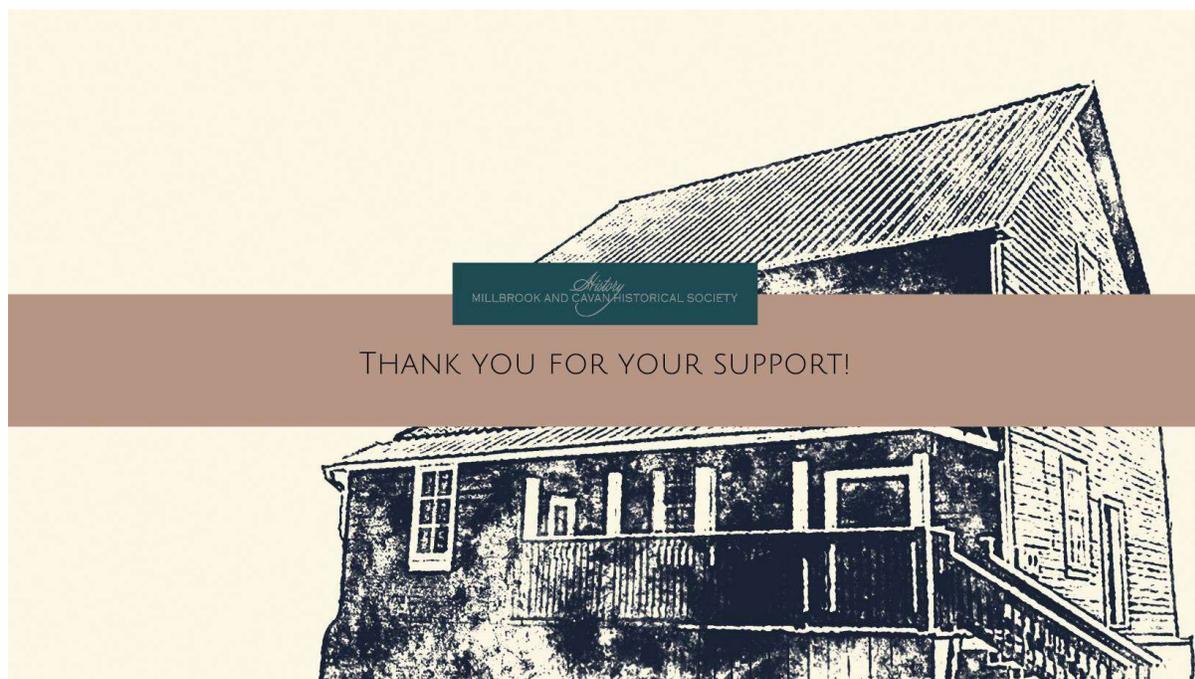
Br. 402, Royal Canadian Legion

Township of Cavan Monaghan

Whale Chiropractic

Mike Lachapelle, Freelance Quality  
Renovations

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.



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 2024-25 due by September 1, 2024.