

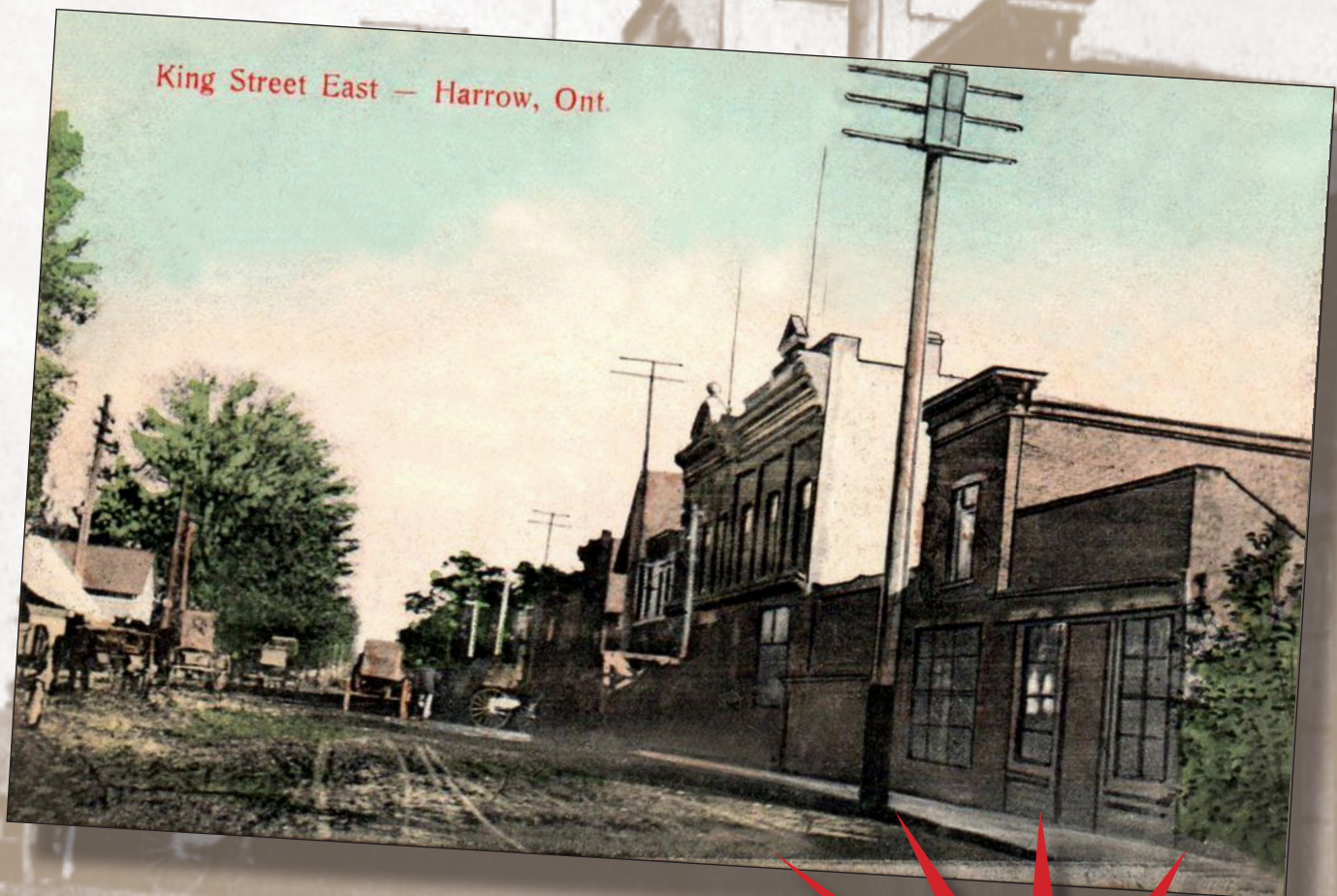


Vol. 2 – February 2020

# HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

newsletter



See  
IMPORTANT  
MEMBERSHIP  
INFO on Pg 3

Next meeting...

**Hometown Proud** - little-known stories of Harrow

## Welcome to the February 2020 newsletter.

### This month, have a romance with the past...

Since we are so close to that special day of love, why not remember our past relatives who made a big difference in our lives this month?

Unlike all those bouquets of flowers - long since gone - or all those cute paper valentines, our love of the past keeps our family stories alive and in our hearts, so much longer than any of those fleeting "gratitudes" we all have received or given over the years.

This month our meeting is also about love... love for our community and Harrow. Harrow is in our organization's name even. So let's "show some love" for your directors and all those who help make our meetings and our town a great place to be.

**Like Valentine's Day, our next meeting is coming up fast. See you there?**

-Rick McCormick



### Next Meeting

**Thursday, February 27th 1:30PM**

**Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room**

**We've changed February's meeting topic due to scheduling issues. Originally scheduled 'Vikings on the Great Lakes' presentation will be offered later this year.**

HEIRS president, Richard Herniman will instead educate us on Harrow's hidden history. He'll present surprising facts on the background of our community, how it developed over the years, & discussion about a number of important people in its history.

As with most stories, the part we know is the 'tip of the iceberg' with more of interest waiting to be shared. Richard's research has uncovered stories likely missed by many. This meeting should foster that feeling of pride in

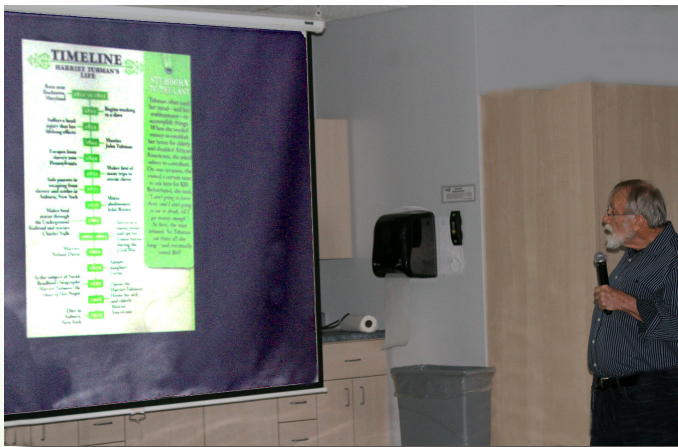
the home town, particularly for many HEIRS members who grew up here. Join us for this feel good meeting, full of warm memories & 'Gee, I didn't know that!' moments.

By complete coincidence, HEIRS was recently contacted by three young Harrow Public School, students working on... Harrow's History. Someone had the great idea to see what resources we might have. We're very pleased to assist in this project.

Their project falling at the same time as our meeting topic is just one of those 'meant to be' occurrences. From personal experience, this happens more than one might think they do.  
-Ted.

**Our first meeting of the year served as the kick off of February's Black History Month, It began with the statement that "Most of us know a few facts in the Harriet Tubman story, but much more is worth being recognized".**

Director Ted Steele set out to tell more of her story, and increase awareness of her incredible courage & determination to do what she felt God wanted her to do, even at great risk to her own life.

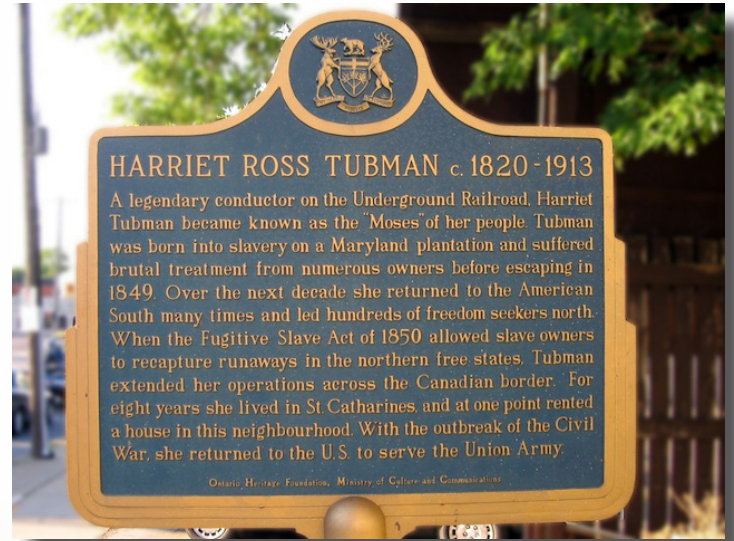


Courtesy: Shelby Wye, Harrow News & County Print

We heard how she was born a slave, but made her mind up to escape somehow when the chance presented itself. Leaving her husband behind, she fled north via the Underground Railroad (UGRR) & found freedom first in Baltimore.

Over the next few years, she made many trips back via the UGRR leading other slaves to freedom. She knew if captured, she was

likely to be tortured & eventually killed, but she was not deterred. Realizing slave-catchers could drag any blacks back into slavery, she & many others moved further north across the border to St Catharines, Ontario.



In her later years, she was a suffragette campaigning for women's rights, a leader in the movement for projects caring for the poor & destitute, and a public speaker on civil rights issues & racial equality.

**Today, a school named in her honour, statues and memorial plaques, and a permanent museum exhibit is in St. Catharines, a city that does know her story well.**

**Her courage & desire to "do the right thing" are examples for all to follow.**

**Due to increased costs such as insurance, telephone & internet service the Board of Directors of HEIRS is considering an increase to the cost of membership.**

Further information to follow next month.

# The Amherstburg Echo.

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY

Vol. XXX No. 15.

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904.

Whole No. 2,474

## 100 ACRES FOR SALE.

In 2nd concession, Anderton Township, about 4 miles from Amherstburg, 20 acres of bush, some small buildings. For further particulars and price, see

FALLS BROS., Agts., Amherstburg.

LIME FOR SALE IN CARLOAD LOTS.

## THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

CAPITAL PAID UP \$3,000,000  
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS, 350,000  
ASSETS 50,000

H. S. HOLT, ESQ., President. D. M. STEWART, General Manager.

## SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

Interest allowed on Deposits of \$1.00 and upwards at highest current rate. Farmers' Notes Discounted at lowest possible rates.

## HARROW BRANCH. AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.

C. A. MacMAHON, Manager.

M. I. LANE, Manager.

### LOST.

LOST—Strayed from my place, Verber, on Sunday, Feb. 29th, a black white and tan English setter bitch, answering to the name "Lady". Finder will receive liberal reward by returning to me, or on being notified I will go after her. A. F. HILDEN, Verber.

### MALDEN.

Ernest McGee, of Flint, Mich spent Sunday at home. Mrs. Frank Hunt has been suffering from an attack of influenza.

### ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

Miss Wm. Hanson's condition has improved about the same. Mr. A. J. Clark has been in the hospital since he was injured by a

## BROOKER vs. AMHERSTBURG.

Judge McHugh Refuses to Grant New Trial.

At the recent sittings of the Division Court in Amherstburg, Mrs. James Brooker sued the corporation of Amherstburg, for injuries sustained, alleged to have been due to a fall on a defective sidewalk. She was awarded \$20 and costs. The town, through their solicitor, DAVIS & DAVIS, applied for a new trial on the ground of the plaintiff's alleged carelessness. The learned Judge refused to grant the appeal and the text of his decision is as below:

BROOKER vs. AMHERSTBURG.—Mr. Rough for Plaintiff, D. B. Davis for defendant. This action was tried before me at the last sitting of the Division Court at Amherstburg. It is brought by the plaintiff to recover damages for personal injuries sustained by the female plaintiff by falling on a sidewalk on Fort St. where the defendant alleges was a dangerous state of disrepair. It is pleaded by counsel for the defendant that if the plaintiff has a good cause of action the damages claimed are less than they would be entitled to recover. The law requires a municipal corporation to keep its streets and sidewalks in good repair and if it neglects to perform that duty the law provides that it shall be civilly responsible for all damages sustained by any persons by reason of such default. The defendant corporation applies to set aside the judgment entered against it, on the ground that there is no evidence that the sidewalk in question was out of repair. The law, however, requires a plaintiff to establish that the sidewalk was in a dangerous state of disrepair, or in such a condition as to constitute a nuisance, or that the defendant corporation neglected to keep it in repair. In this case, the plaintiff has established that the sidewalk was in a dangerous state of disrepair, and that the defendant corporation neglected to keep it in repair. The law requires a municipal corporation to keep its streets and sidewalks in good repair and if it neglects to perform that duty the law provides that it shall be civilly responsible for all damages sustained by any persons by reason of such default. The defendant corporation applies to set aside the judgment entered against it, on the ground that there is no evidence that the sidewalk in question was out of repair. The law, however, requires a plaintiff to establish that the sidewalk was in a dangerous state of disrepair, or in such a condition as to constitute a nuisance, or that the defendant corporation neglected to keep it in repair. In this case, the plaintiff has established that the sidewalk was in a dangerous state of disrepair, and that the defendant corporation neglected to keep it in repair.

## ANDERDON COUNCIL.

Saturday, Feb. 27th. Council met in regular session with all members present. Moved by Messrs. Groudin and Cote, that the minutes just read be adopted.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Volans and Cote, that Fred Pagnou get a warrant for \$4 groceries furnished to the Verber.—Carried. Moved by Messrs. Cote and Antoine Lenoir get a clearing ice from 60

## BURK BROS.



## February 6

Wireless telephone conversation at any distance will be possible in the near future, said Robert F. Gowan, engineer of the DeForest Radio Co. He claims that he has talked to various points within radius of 900 miles.

## February 20

F. H. Ferriss has purchased the Flood warehouse which almost fell victim to an incendiary of last week.

He also purchased a garage and 2 lots west of the T B Adams, Munger Ave, from Mr. Adams and sold the property to Charles Clark, who expects to build.

Sylvester McCormick, assessor, making rounds quickly while roads are good.

Assessment of Colchester South lands is due for a healthy boost to bring them in line with the county equalization.

At Thursday midnight, the social dancing party given by the Veribest Club was interrupted by the fire alarm.

The male members, on rushing out, found that fire had broken out in the Flood warehouse east of the Pere Marquette station, but it was quenched before any great damage was done.

A pile of rags saturated with gasoline found alongside the building was sufficient evidence that someone had attempted to fire the building.

## February 26

Comparisons made by George Eede re: the severe long winter we are experiencing and the winter of 1874 - snow and frost came in the middle of November.

And the weather continued pleasant until January. Then it turned intensely cold and remained so until the later part of March, resembling a Manitoba winter.

The lake froze to 4 feet, enabling a considerable quantity of building stone from Pelee Island to be brought to the mainland in April.

## *From the Echo (cont'd)*

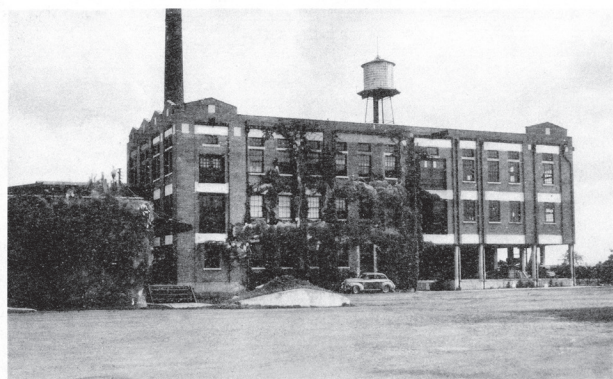
### *February 27*

*Many farms are growing tomatoes for W. Clark Co. Ltd of Montreal, and Quality Cannery. Last year W. Clark Ltd. alone used 60,000 bushels of tomatoes in Catsup and tomato sauces. Quality Cannery are more interested in sweet corn.*

*Despite the dry season of 1919, they were well-satisfied with returns from acreage contracted. The climate in south Essex is probably the mildest of any spot in Canada. Seasons are at least 3 weeks in advance of even the Niagara District.*

*Early fruits and vegetables will no doubt soon be grown on a much larger scale. The lack of sufficient transportation has been a serious drawback to this agricultural district.*

*But with the advent of the motor truck and a provincial county road through the centre of the region into the border cities of Sandwich, Windsor and Walkerville, we will overcome this handicap. These cities furnish a ready market for early produce.*



W. Clark Ltd., Harrow, Ontario, Canada.

## *Follow Up*

*Our last newsletter featured a story on the Reno Gang of outlaws, known to have spent some of their time (& stolen money) in the Windsor-Essex County area.*

*Recently I have come across this photograph of a woman identified as Jemima Brush Reno.*



*The Brush family is well-known in this area. It sets me to wondering if this lady could have connections to these outlaws.*

*If anyone has ideas or information on this thought, please let me (Ted Steele) know at [historynut@outlook.com](mailto:historynut@outlook.com). I am curious!*

## From the HEIRS mailbag...



### A long-time member of HEIRS writes...

*"I just read every word of your entertaining and informative newsletter. I'm very glad you will always have stories to share. The Reno/Renaud article is amazing; how did they escape so many times? Do the local Renaud families have any connection with these rascals? Fun stuff. Happy New Year, and keep on with all the great communications."*

### A second email states...

*"Congratulations on a wonderful and exciting issue of HEIRS. I miss the meetings; keep up the good work and thanks for the email copy. I move this meeting be adjourned."*

*Love that sense of humour – we history fans enjoy the silliness we find in what we're doing! That tells me we're on the right path, because I really had a good time sharing stories in the January issue. It indeed seems that if I enjoy putting it together, readers will also share my enjoyment as they read it. - Ted*

Black Kids In Action & Y.C.A. Inc. presents a  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
Production

**IT'S US**

February 26, 2020 at the **Capitol Theatre**  
Doors open 6PM show starts at 7PM

**Adult \$25.00**  
**Child \$15.00**

**Contact Information:**  
Phone: Marcia Pivotte 519-566-8791  
Phone: Oluwatosin Akinbinu 226-246-6155  
Phone: Kenny Gbadebo 519-792.7857  
Email: bkiayouths2019@gmail.com

Tickets available to purchase at [Eventbrite](#)

**Capitol Theatre** is located at 121 University Ave. W, Windsor ON, N9A 5P4  
Proceeds goes towards the "BKIA" (*Black Kids In Action*) performing arts group.

Black Kids In Action & Y.C.A. Inc. logo  
Black Kids In Action Performing Arts Group logo  
Y.C.A. Inc. logo

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**The cold winter months mean little activity among the historical groups in the area; one exception is the various groups which present topics marking February as Black History Month.**

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The Amherstburg Freedom Museum and the Essex County Black Historical Research Society both offer several programs of wide interest - poetry, music and history in an easy to enjoy format. Check them out.... they offer something for everyone.

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The J.R. Park Homestead continues to hibernate, but in March it "springs" to life with its annual Maple Festival,

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Our March NL will have details on the Maple March Break, the Maple Moon evening program, and various events with a maple theme during that "March Break" week. Stay tuned for sweet news in our next issue.

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The Kingsville Gosfield Heritage Society asked us to provide a speaker for their March meeting, and we agreed.

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Tentatively, HEIRS director Ted Steele will speak on why we ought to investigate our ancestors, and to find the stories that really tell about their lives, as well as discovering who in our own family trees helped make us who and what we are.

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The Essex Heritage Committee is hosting a heritage meeting in Essex during the "Heritage Week", celebration from March 17th to March

23rd. It sounds like another good opportunity to find out more about our home town.

### **Essex Heritage Week Itinerary:**

#### **Community Heritage Preservation Awards Ceremony**

Tuesday, February 18th at 6PM

Essex Civic Centre, 360 Fairview Avenue West,  
Essex Centre

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#### **"The Birth of Essex"** Heritage Talk

presented by Seamus Gunn

Wednesday, February 19th

8:30-9:30 AM and 10:00 - 11:00AM

Essex District High School, 244 Talbot Street  
North, Essex Centre

Register at 519-776-7336 extension 1128

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#### And our own **"Harrow's Hidden History"**

Heritage Talk presented by Richard Herniman  
(HEIRS)

HEIRS meeting on Thursday, February 27th  
at 1:30 PM, as usual.

Harrow and Colchester South Community  
Centre, 243 McAfee Street, Harrow  
Beverages and snacks provided.



### History As It Used to Was...

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

#### Brain Droppings

*Think about our HEIRS meetings and our newsletters for a moment... what is it that makes them interesting and worthwhile?*

*I'm sure we can all agree that it is the stories that tell us about people and places, and why events happened as they did.*

*It is NOT a collection of names and dates or who was the child of what couple. I have to believe that every family has its own interesting stories, but too often, nobody has taken the time to unearth them.*

*At the risk of being called 'egocentric' (look that one up in your Funk & Wagnalls), I want to begin here with some notes about my own family, since I definitely know them best.*

*I acquired "the Steele Archives" in 2001; they had been worked on and compiled for years, but never assembled into complete stories.*

*I assumed we just "decended from farmers" with no story to tell. A bit of digging revealed much more of the family story.*

***My GGG-Grandfather William Steele, as I just learned, was a slave-owner. About 1775, he was tarred and feathered by rebels for his support of the British viewpoint.***

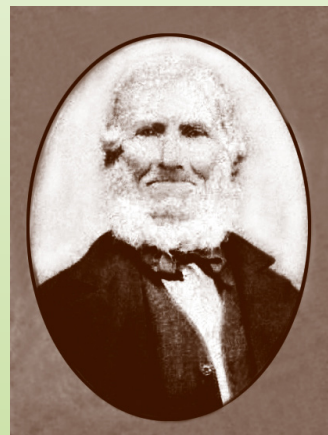
*In the war, he was caught as a British spy (which he was) and jailed. He escaped and continued to serve with the New Jersey Volunteers until war's end. Having lost everything during the war, he departed for Canada and was given land as a*



*United Empire Loyalist.*

***His son David, along with several siblings, won decorations and military pensions from the War of 1812.***

*Some of these medals were for service against the Rebellion of 1837 as well. In 1839, following the Battle of Windsor, another cousin was caught and tried for treason in the London Gaol. He was Joshua Gillam Doan, hung as a traitor.*





**David's son Christian, my GG-Grandfather was a solid citizen with little known about him.**

*When I researched his wife, Martha Doan, she was a cousin to the Doan Outlaws, (Google..'Plumstead Cowboys) .*

*She is also the link to the family of hockey star Shane Doan. His cousin is a goalie named Carey Price.*

*Recently, I learned that an Adam Doan (possibly my relative) married Rebecca Echerlin. So what you ask? Rebecca was the sister of Simon Girty's mother.*



**The family mix included George Wellington Steele and his brother Daniel Jefferson Steele.**

*Both joined the Northwest Mounted Police (later the RCMP) and went west at the time of the Riel Rebellion in 1870.*



***I really cannot believe that our family is so exceptional.***

***Every family has someone notable - one who made a real difference.***

***If you know their story, please write it out for me - even point form is fine. I may be able to include it in one of our meetings or as a newsletter article.***

***If you don't know of anyone 'exceptional', why not begin to dig a bit more by accessing the HEIRS files at the Resource Center.***

***Find that rascal / hero in YOUR family tree, and share that story with us. The more local content in our gatherings & newsletters, the better!***

# HEIRS RESOURCE CENTRE

**Open September - June** (December excepted)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Call to confirm Wednesday or other appointments.

## Newsletter

Published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, September to June, (December excepted).

Receive full colour newsletters by email, or a B&W print version by regular post. Simply provide your email or street address to our office.

## Memberships

\$25 CDN / U.S. per person or couple.

Memberships run May 1st - April 30th, annually.

## Send membership cheque to:

HEIRS PO Box 53, Harrow  
ON, Canada N0R 1G0

Please include phone, postal address, email & family names you are now researching.

## Non-member using Research Library

\$10 per visit (+ photocopy costs).

## Mailing Address

243 McAfee St., PO Box 53,  
Harrow, ON Canada N0R 1G0

Harrow & Colchester South  
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)

**Phone** 519 738-3700

**Email** [hheritage@bellnet.ca](mailto:hheritage@bellnet.ca)

**Website** [www.HEIRS.ca](http://www.HEIRS.ca)

Kudos go to Greg Harrison at The Computer Centre in Harrow, who provides HEIRS support for all things technical to help keep our office running smoothly.

## Board of Directors

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### Newsletter

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