

Vol. 8 – October 2018

# HEIRS

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society

*newsletter*



www.HEIRS.ca  
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Email:hheritage@bellnet.ca

243 McAfee St., PO Box 53,  
Harrow, ON Canada N0R 1G0  
Harrow & Colchester South  
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



**Next meeting...** (SPECIAL EVENING MEETING 6:30 PM)

*The History of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment*

## Newsletter News!

### Welcome to the October newsletter.

All those who think October is the best month of the year... **raise your hands!**

(Okay, we all know it's actually one of the Spring months, but there's a lot to be said for October.)

Warm days, cool nights (maybe a little morning fog just to keep us on our toes). And with Fall's magnificent and ever-changing canvas of colourful leaves, the last days of apple picking, and of course preparing for Thanksgiving's gastronomic overindulgence... **it's hard to knock October.**

**(Now, if we can get 'trick or treating' changed to adults only.)**

So... speaking of October, you won't want to miss this month's meeting. **See you there?**

### Next Meeting

**When:** Thursday, October 25th **Note: Special Time... 6:30 PM**

**Where:** Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Meeting Room

**Our guest speaker will be Lt .Col. (retired) Hardy Wheeler of the Essex Kent Scottish regiment.**

He enrolled in the Canadian Army Regiment in 1964 & spent the next 10 years with the Royal Canadian Regiment, as well as the Canadian Airborne Regiment & the Essex Kent Scottish.

He served a 6-month tour with the United Nations (Cyprus), two 3-year tours in Germany and has trained in arctic, jungle, desert, mechanized & urban warfare.

In addition to his operational service medals, he was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal (1977), the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012), the Canadian Peacekeeping Medal & the Canadian Forces Decoration.

For the last 29 years, he has been closely associated with the Essex and Kent Scottish, initially as Commanding Officer (1989-1992). Following this, he was editor of the regiment's history book "Duty Nobly Done" (2006). He also served as a member of the Regimental Senate & held executive positions in charities which support the Scottish.

He was appointed by the Minister of National Defence as Honorary Colonel of the Essex and Kent Scottish (2009 to 2014). During his retirement, he has worked as manager with the Canadian Red Cross.



He's been President of the Rotary Club of Windsor-St Clair, & was President, Assistant Governor, and on many committees serving the Rotary district in Essex County & SW Michigan.

A husband, father of 2 grown children & grandfather of 7, he is an avid runner, golfer and continues to speak on behalf of the Regiment. **We are honoured to have him for our SPECIAL EVENING MEETING starting at 6:30 PM.**

**On September 27, HEIRS met to begin our Fall series of meetings; our guest, Agathe Vaillancourt, told us about the RPFO, or Reseau du patrimoine franco-ontarien, which is a Windsor based research centre on Prince Road.**



Lists of names from the middle 1600s can be found in these papers, as well as other documents from the New France era telling of Quebec history and the gradual migration of these pioneers through the rest of what would become Canada.



Open on Tuesdays from 10 AM to 6 PM, the centre aims to promote various facets of French Canadian culture and encourage genealogical research for those who have ancestors of French Canadian heritage.

In most cases the materials have been translated and one does not need to be fluent in French to make use of them. If your own background includes some of this French heritage, you may well find some fascinating bits of family lore within the files of the RPFO in Windsor.

They have assembled a research library of binders and folders containing many of the birth, baptism, marriage and death records of churches around Essex County, including churches no longer functioning as such. In some cases these records go back many years and contain hard to find details which researchers may have been unable to find.

Binders have been assembled by members and donated to the centre as well, to add to the collection. In addition, there are records of "les filles du mariage" and "les filles du roi", young ladies sent from France to plant firm roots in New France by marrying and establishing permanent families.



**For more information, call them at 519-254-5721 or 519-948-6924. Visit their website at [www.rpfo.ca/Regional.Research.Centers\\_101](http://www.rpfo.ca/Regional.Research.Centers_101). NOTE: Enter the parking lot off College Avenue to access their location.**

# From the HEIRS mailbag....



*Edith (Walker) Woodbridge, Past-President of HEIRS, and long-time contributing member, was the driving force to convert a handwritten version of the Woodbridge family story to be rekeyed on computer and also performed the indexing updates for this document.*

*The document now also include the Karrow family information, with extra data provided for the Beth (McCormick) Karrow's family line, by her son Tom.*

***Edith has now generously offered to share the 2018 Woodbridge Family Story with those interested in this family lineage.***

*Email her at [edith.woodbridge@gmail.com](mailto:edith.woodbridge@gmail.com) if you wish to obtain a digital copy. HEIRS will be soon have their own copy on file for interested parties to access.*

***Thank you to Edith for the generous offer to share your family storyline.***



*The Essex branch OGS has a session planned for Tuesday, October 9th which I hope to attend. Called "French Perseverance in the Detroit*

*River Area", it will be led by D. Guillaume Teasdale, historian and author, who is in the process of writing this, his newest book. The French influence in the Essex region has always been, and continues to be strong. Meeting is at 6:30PM in the lower level meeting room of the Windsor Public Library, 850 Ouellette Ave in Windsor, speaker to begin about 7PM.*

*The Kent branch of the OGS meets October 12 at the McKinlay Funeral Home Reception Centre, 463 St Clair Street in Chatham at 7PM. The Tilbury Historical Society will attend, explaining the resources they have to aid those wishing to research their own roots in the Tilbury area.*

## Original Map Donated to HEIRS

*HEIRS has recently come into possession of a wonderful piece of local history. Through the assistance of Mrs. Edith Woodbridge, a framed original 1853 map of Oxley was donated to our collection. Printed on cloth, it shows the village of "Oxford", as Oxley was called originally. (The name was changed to avoid confusion with Oxford County) Once owned by the Bell family, it was given to Bob Grieves, who passed it on to his son Bruce. Bruce then sought a fitting home for the map & Edith suggested HEIRS. A copy of the map appears in the "Harrow-Colchester South 1792-1992" book, along with a long story about the village. **HEIRS plans to have it on permanent display at the HEIRS centre, We thank both the Grieves family and Edith Woodbridge for making this possible.***





Essex Region Conservation



Essex Region Conservation  
the place for life



## Harvest & Horses Festival

John R. Park Homestead CA  
Sunday, October 14, Noon to 4pm  
\$6/adult, \$4/child, \$20 family maximum

- Take a ring-side seat for the amazing Parade of Breeds at 1:30pm sharp
- Pony rides for children
- Harvest-themed family photo booth
- Live music provided by Mike Houston & The Woodchoppers, and the South Point Ukulele Group
- Get hands-on with pioneer harvest activities
- Lunch available for purchase on-site from Scotty's BBQ

Please no dogs  
at this event.

519-738-2029  
jrph@erca.org

[essexregionconservation.ca](http://essexregionconservation.ca)



140 RICHMOND AMHERSTBURG (519) 736 2826

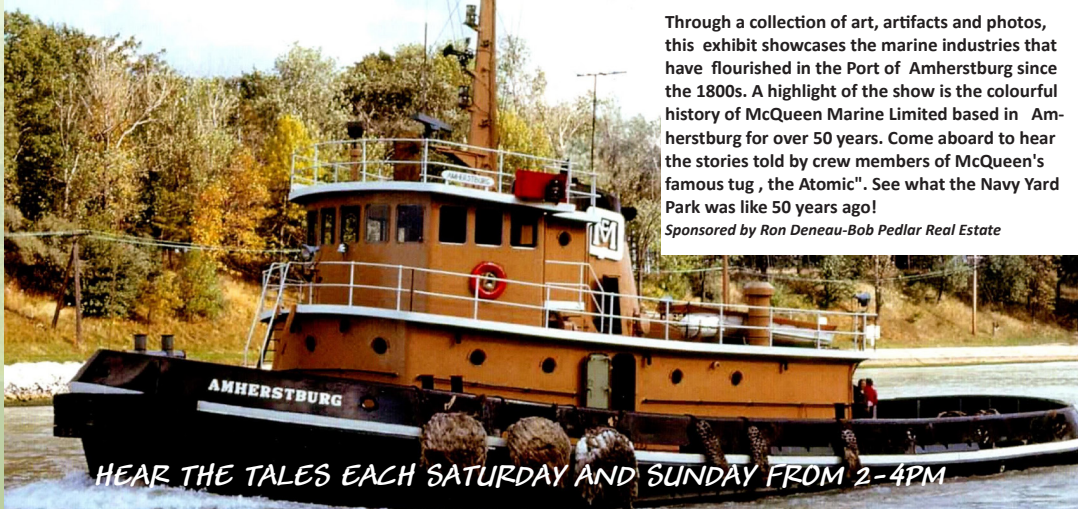


**GIBSON GALLERY**

140 RICHMOND AMHERSTBURG (519) 736 2826

## AHOY : AMHERSTBURG'S MARINE PAST

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 21



Through a collection of art, artifacts and photos, this exhibit showcases the marine industries that have flourished in the Port of Amherstburg since the 1800s. A highlight of the show is the colourful history of McQueen Marine Limited based in Amherstburg for over 50 years. Come aboard to hear the stories told by crew members of McQueen's famous tug, the Atomic". See what the Navy Yard Park was like 50 years ago!

Sponsored by Ron Deneau-Bob Pedlar Real Estate

HEAR THE TALES EACH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM 2-4PM

GALLERY HOURS: Thursday - Sunday 11am - 5pm  
[www.gibsonartgallery.com](http://www.gibsonartgallery.com)

[www.gibsonartgallery.com](http://www.gibsonartgallery.com)

**NOW OPEN AT**

**THE CANADIAN TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM & HERITAGE VILLAGE**

6155 Arner Townline in Kingsville, ON

**Souterrain Impressions Exhibit:**

**“First World War Carvings come out of the darkness and into the light”**

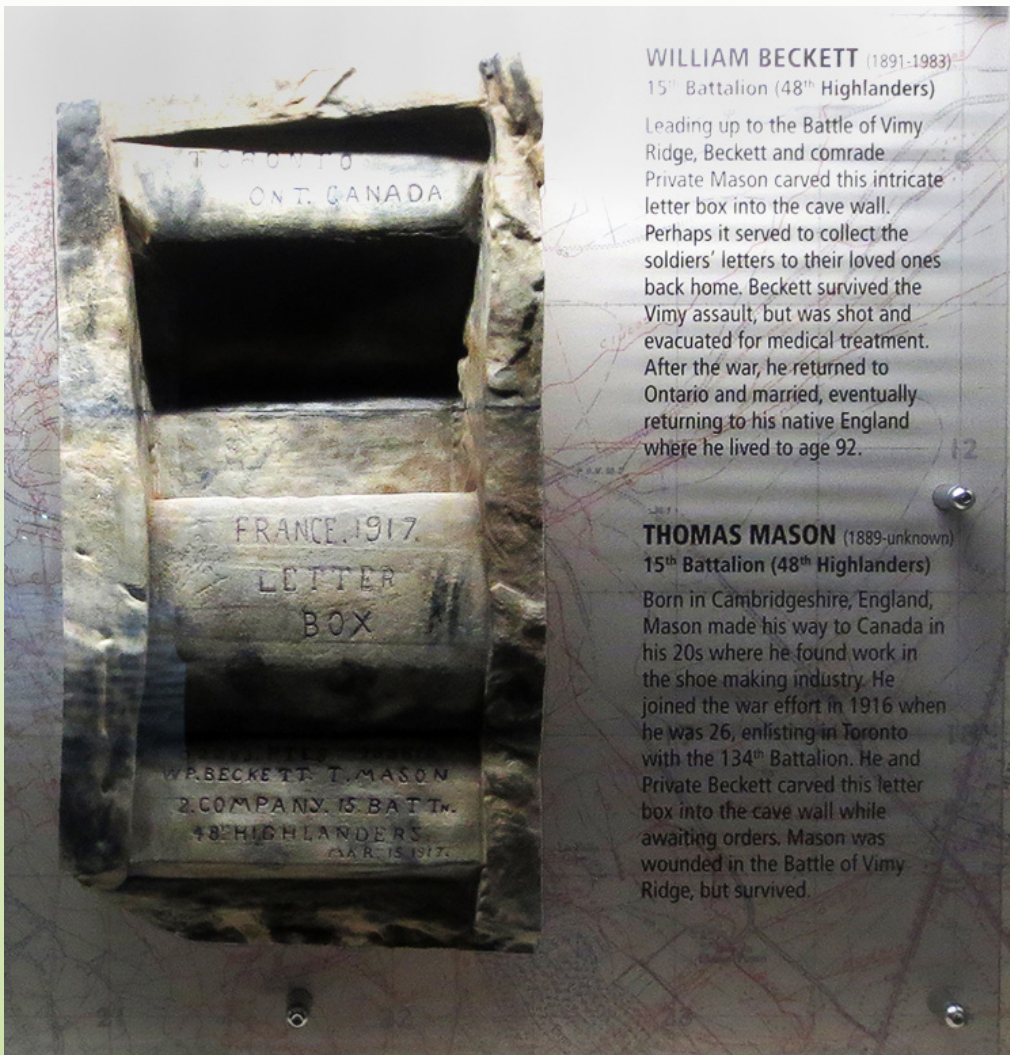
**9:00 to 3:00 Tuesday- Sunday until Nov. 18**

**Free admission to exhibit. Donations greatly appreciated to help cover costs.**

**Special Remembrance Day event, Saturday, Nov. 10th as we remember 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended fighting in the First World War.**

A once in a lifetime opportunity to view carvings & images created by Canadian soldiers in caves near Vimy Ridge France, during WWI. The carvings were made while Canadian soldiers waited to move to the forward trenches before the historic Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917.

Latest 3D laser scanning technology & high resolution photography made it possible for exhibit curator Zenon Andrusyszyn & his team, at The Canadian Historical Documentation & Imaging Group, CANADIGM, to bring these carvings home as a very up close and personal reminder of the impact made by Canadian soldiers during the war.



**WILLIAM BECKETT (1891-1983)**  
 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion (48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders)  
 Leading up to the Battle of Vimy Ridge, Beckett and comrade Private Mason carved this intricate letter box into the cave wall. Perhaps it served to collect the soldiers' letters to their loved ones back home. Beckett survived the Vimy assault, but was shot and evacuated for medical treatment. After the war, he returned to Ontario and married, eventually returning to his native England where he lived to age 92.

**THOMAS MASON (1889-unknown)**  
 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion (48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders)  
 Born in Cambridgeshire, England, Mason made his way to Canada in his 20s where he found work in the shoe making industry. He joined the war effort in 1916 when he was 26, enlisting in Toronto with the 134<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He and Private Beckett carved this letter box into the cave wall while awaiting orders. Mason was wounded in the Battle of Vimy Ridge, but survived.

**Image # W35\_278\_4**   **Image n° W35\_278\_4**

How to locate an image on a map from the coordinates  
 Comment repérer une image sur la carte à partir des coordonnées

Remember the phrase "In the door, up the stairs" and follow steps numbers 1, 2, 3, 4  
 N'oubliez pas la phrase : « On entre par la porte, on monte les marches » et suivre les étapes 1, 2, 3 et 4

**Grid #**  
**Grille n°**

**Step 1:**  
 Locate grid number on the map  
**Étape 1 :**  
 Repérez le numéro de la grille sur la carte.

**Step 2:**  
 "In the door"  
**Étape 2 :**  
 « On entre par la porte »

**Step 3:**  
 "Up the stairs"  
**Étape 3 :**  
 « On monte les marches »

**Step 4:**  
 W35 refers to the wall section #35 (blue color on the map)  
 W35 is the image number  
 W35 means it is 4 feet from the bottom of the cave floor  
**Étape 4 :**  
 W35 correspond à la section de paroi n° 35 (couleur bleue sur la carte)

# The Amherstburg Echo.

THE ORIGINAL PAPER OF THE DISTRICT

Vol. XXX No. 15

AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1904.

Weekly No. 2476

100 ACRES FOR SALE.

In full possession, Amherst Township, about 10 miles from Amherstburg, 20 acres of land, water and 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.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

HARROW BRANCH. AMHERSTBURG BRANCH.  
C. A. MacNATION, M. I. LAKE  
Managers.



PURK BROS.

THE  
MILK  
CONDENSED  
HOUSE.

3

Special

## October 4

Robert McManemy died, age 86. He ran a sawmill in the early days on the Russell place before circular saws & modern methods, his saw being an upright. He also owned threshing outfits in the days of horse power, & introduced the first steam thresher in this district. Carpenter, his wife was a Ridsdale, sister of George Ridsdale of Harrow & James of Amherstburg. They had 17 children: living are George of Oregon, Fred of Chicago, Clayton of northern Michigan, Stanley of Washington territory, Clifford of Seattle, Allen of Colchester South, Mrs. George Orton of Detroit, & the youngest daughter married and living in Michigan.

Margaret Helen Tofflemire, nee Huffman, died in her 81st year. Daughter of Rudolph Huffman, & Mary Buchanan. She married on Oct. 2, 1859, & celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1909. Family of 12 children: 8 sons, 4 daughters, with 5 sons & 2 daughters yet living. They are Mrs. Wm. Staddon of Colchester S., C. W. Tofflemire of Windsor, Alberta at home, Jasper of Colchester S., Lambert of Kingsville, Roscoe & Gordon on the home farm. Her siblings living are: Angus of Colchester S., Mrs.

A. E. Roberts of Ithica, Michigan, & Mrs. Jacob Baltzer of Kingsville.

## October 10

George Rogers is to be appointed postmaster; His 2 sons served overseas.

## October 25

Dr. & Mrs. Husser receive word of the death of their son, Spr. James Carman Husser of the Canadian Engineers which occurred Sept. 19. He had been in England about 2 months, & was in the training camp in Seaford, Sussex. He was born at Louisville, east of Chatham, & was 20 years, 5 months & 0 days old. He attended Listowel High School & the Continuation School at Harrow, matriculating for pharmacy in June 1917. Since September of that year he was employed with J. W. Petch, druggist, Walkerville. On May 20 he enlisted, on June 20 he reported for overseas service. He was a very fine, splendid physique, and fine character. His parents had received no word of his illness, and he died of pneumonia.

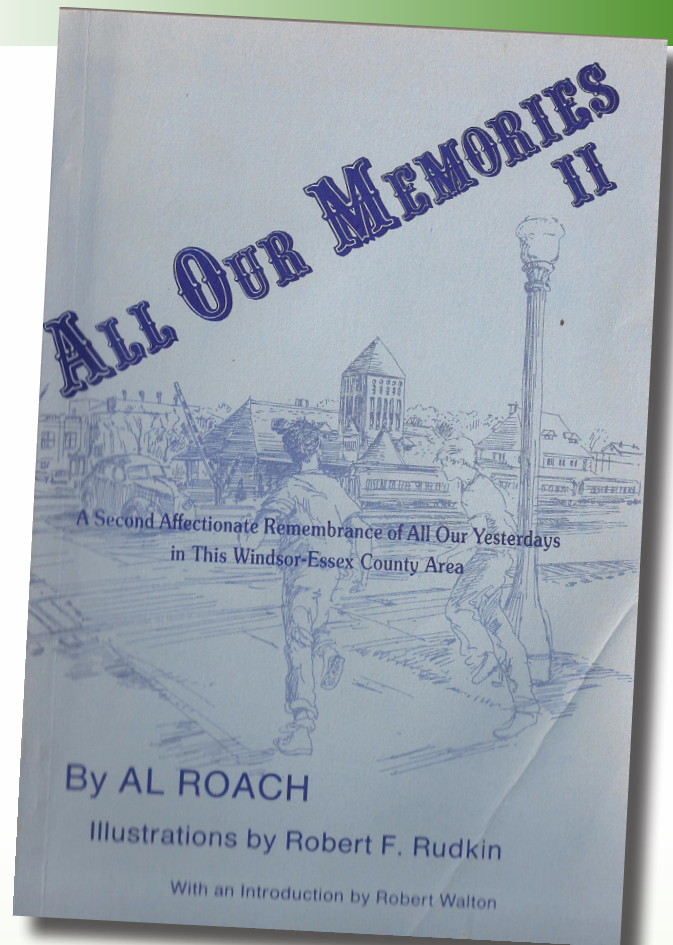
## All Our Memories

- by Al Roach

As a school librarian many years ago, we had books... we were actually **REQUIRED** to have 7 books per student, and had to do an inventory every year, and ensure we met the "7" quota.

In doing so, I always stumbled over books that were very good but little read; perhaps not visually appealing or had a dull-sounding title. I began searching these out, reading them and then giving "book talks" to get students to give them a look. **It often worked! Now I do the same at HEIRS... our shelves do indeed have some treasures!**

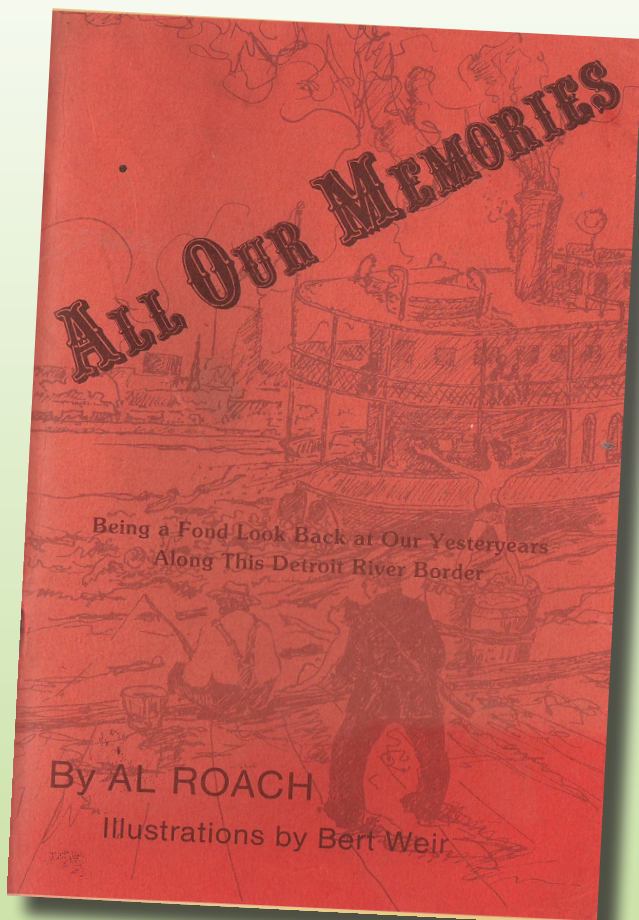
Slated for disposal were 2 small paperbound books with faded illustrations; both called "All Our Memories" (parts I & II); neither have been borrowed in years.



Each is a collection of memories by local author Al Roach; memories of a small boy growing up in Essex County. One chapter is about his school, Gore Hill Public near Leamington; another... summer days in Amherstburg, Grey Owl's visit to King Edward School, summer visits to Peche Island, the Walkerville Pere Marquette train station & more.

Each 3 to 4 page chapter contain memories of the type our generation all shared, even though we may have grown up miles apart. The times, the innocence, the fun and slower pace of life all imbue these pages. They provide a look back to our own childhood and are sure to bring a smile to the faces of those kids of the 50's like I was.

These 2 books are looking for a good home and will be "up for adoption" on the back table at our October meeting. **Give them a look!**





## The Treasures of HEIRS

- by Ted Steele, HEIRS Director

### Preserving 'History As It Used To Was'...

*Expiration dates affect us all. As we age, we realize that nothing lasts forever. We need to get a few things "in order" while we can.*

*Do you have "heirlooms" at your house that no other family member values as much as you do? I know I have - a child's rocking horse, a wooden tool chest a 100 years old. What will become of them?*

*Are there boxes of photos that have no names attached to them? Unless they are scanned and the people named, they will become totally useless and thrown away. Old home movies and video tapes will deteriorate and become unusable, perhaps even unsaveable. Photo albums, even framed photos will be unwanted.*

*As I face these problems, a few answers have emerged. As the "curator" for both the Steele and Fox families, I have scanned thousands of photos and documents, and have them at last somewhat arranged in my computer, and have made back-up copies of all these files. Both my laptop and desktop computers have expired in the last 2 years, so back-up copies are absolutely vital.*

*You can use CDs & DVDs for backup files, but these are low capacity & can be easily damaged. Flash drives work well, as these come in sizes from 8 to 64 gigabytes (GB) and even larger. Flash drives are not infallible however, but do offer a convenient way to make multiple copies. I eventually moved to an external hard drive with a 2 terabyte (TB) capacity, solving my photo storage problem. I can easily provide family members with individual wanted files on a flash drive. A 2nd external drive is my back-up file.*

*Personal items also need to be scanned or photographed to be added to these files. They will survive when the items themselves, have not. Medals, documents, clothing, souvenirs all can be preserved in the family files, and the items given away or even sold.*

*Home movies on reels & cassettes, voice recordings of 'Grandma's tales' when she was a young girl, slides or even tintypes need to be converted to a more durable and useful medium... **and quickly as time has a way of erasing these.** Videocassettes can be converted fairly easily and inexpensively through HEIRS. Your movies converted to DVD form, are playable in a computer or DVD player. Audio recordings can be converted by HEIRS as well, and put on a CD. Film on reels can also be done. I recommend Costco. Their rates are reasonable, but you or a family member must have a membership. A number of reels can be put on the same DVD, and they just then charge by the foot (they DO NOT copy blank film at all). Again, I consider their price quite reasonable. Do this ASAP, as film degrades, becomes brittle & fades...then nothing can be done.*

*If you can't scan your items yourself, ask an HEIRS director about our service. Usually if you bring it in, we will scan it, print a copy if desired, and return your original item to you. We may ask to keep a copy for our files if of value to us.*

*Your aim should be to digitize as much as you can, then scatter copies of these files throughout your family for safety.*

***We all hope a grandchild will become interested and keep our family stories alive. HEIRS can help you get this done.***

# HEIRS Resource Centre

**Open Sept. - June** (Dec. excepted)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM

Wednesday & other appts: Call to confirm.

## Newsletter

Published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from 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 covers

May 1st (2018) to April 30th, 2019

## Send cheque to:

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

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

**Non-member user fee at HEIRS Research Library:**

\$5 per visit (+ photocopy costs).

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

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