

**Regional Municipality of Waterloo  
Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation  
Board Agenda**



Tuesday, March 24, 2026

5:30 p.m.

Waterloo County Room/Electronic

Should you require an alternative format please contact the Regional Clerk at Tel.: 519-575-4400,  
TTY: 519-575-4605, or [regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca)

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	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	
<b>2. Land Acknowledgement</b>	
<b>3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest</b>	
<b>4. Finance Reports</b>	
<b>4.1 Account and Grants Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
For information.	
<b>5. Delegations</b>	
None.	
<b>6. Approval of Minutes - February 24, 2026</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Recommended Motion:</b>	
That the minutes of Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation from February 24, 2026 be approved.	
<b>7. Committees</b>	
<b>7.1 Allocations and Finance</b>	
<b>7.1.1 Waterloo Historical Society Grant Extension Request</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7.2 Heritage Advisory and Communications</b>	
<b>Recommended Motion:</b>	
That the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation present the following awards at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2026:	
1. Aaron Francis to be awarded the Award of Excellence;	
2. Karen VandenBrink to be awarded the Dr. Jean Steckle Award;	
and	
3. Geoffery Hayes to be awarded the Sally Thorsen Award of Excellence.	

And that the Foundation approve the cost of the award framing to a maximum of \$150.00;

And further that the Foundation direct staff to keep award nominations open year-round with an annual cut-off only for selection purposes, all nominations received after the last Friday in February will be considered in the following year.

### **7.3 Strategic Planning**

10

Discussion on the pilot project and the Strategic Program Review Final Report.

#### **Recommended Motion:**

That the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation resume the grant funding process, effective April 1, 2026. And that the Submission Period will be held from April 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026, and that the Evaluation and Granting Period be held from July 2, 2026 to September 22, 2026.

And that the Foundation direct the Strategic Planning Committee to implement the following target changes before the 2027 grant windows:

1. Develop clearer evaluation criteria and scoring guidance;
2. Increase outreach with underrepresented communities in the Region; and
3. Provide applicant support resources.

### **8. Information/Correspondence**

#### **8.1 WRHF - Around the Region Article**

16

Re: Meet the people working to preserve and celebrate Waterloo Region's Heritage

#### **8.2 Waterloo Historical Society Annual Volume 86 - 1998, pp. 116-118**

22

Re: A Historical item about the Foundation

### **9. Other Business**

#### **9.1 2026 Annual General Meeting**

Re: Venue Updates

### **10. Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

### **11. Adjourn**

#### **Recommended Motion:**

That the meeting adjourn at x:xx x.m.

**WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

**February 2026**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee/Donor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>			
Feb.1	RADHA VYAS	History Prize Nomination Reimbursement	\$ 33.76
Feb.1	JANNA MARTIN	WRHF Grant	\$ 1,168.00
			<hr/>
			\$ 1,201.76
			<hr/> <hr/>

**WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
Net Funding Position**

Balance in Operating Account as at February 28, 2026	\$ 169,383.98
 <b>Deduct:</b>	
Funding Approved for Distribution in 2025	\$ (78,615.50)
Grants Paid	\$51,655.50
Grants Committed (Approved and Not Paid)	(26,960.00)
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<b>Net Funding Position as at February 28, 2026</b>	<b>\$ 142,423.98</b>
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**WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION**  
**Grant Summary Statement**  
**February 2026**

**Grants Approved and Paid**

Date Paid	Grants Paid in 2025	
2025-10-31	Rhythm & Blues Cambridge for the Emancipation Day Celebration	\$ 10,500.00
2025-10-29	Stephen Young for the Dickson & Bruce History meets Mystery film series	\$ 5,160.00
2025-12-31	the Hearts Open for Everyone (H.O.P.E.) for the 3rd Annual Multicultural Festival of Elmira (MFE) event	\$ 27,200.00
2025-12-31	Juanita Metzger on behalf of Stroll Walking Tours to develop three new walking tours based on significant women's history in the Region of Waterloo	\$ 7,627.50
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>\$ 50,487.50</u></b>

Date Paid	Grants Paid in 2026	
2026-02-01	Janna Martin for the project titled 'A Working Group on Unsettling Mennonite Public History'	\$ 1,168.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,168.00</u></b>

**Grants Committed (Approved and Not Paid)**

Date Approved	Date of Expiry	Outstanding Approved Commitments	
2025-03-25	-	Peggy Plet to explore and document the lives and experiences of Black domestic workers in the Region of Waterloo	\$ 10,940.00
2025-03-25	-	Waterloo Historical Society for the publication of the Annual Volume 112 - 2024	\$ 10,200.00
2025-03-25	-	Muslim Social Services Waterloo Region for the Arabic Calligraphy Program	\$ 5,820.00
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b><u>\$ 26,960.00</u></b>

**Total Grants Paid and Committed** **\$ 78,615.50**

**Regional Municipality of Waterloo**  
**Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation**  
**Board Minutes**



February 24, 2026  
5:30 p.m.  
Waterloo County Room/Electronic

Present: D. Emberly, P. Elsworthy, P. Wolf, A. Carswell, R. Shipley, T. Falconer, N. Baskanderi, K. Costello, E. Dyck

Absent: J. Glass, N. Salonen, H. Peller-Oliver

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair D. Emberly called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

J. Hale, Foundation Secretary, provided a land acknowledgement.

**3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

None declared.

**4. Finance Reports**

**4.1 WRHF-TRR-26-001, 2026 Insurance Policy Renewal**

D. Emberly provided a brief overview of the report WRHF-TRR-26-001, 2026 Insurance Policy Renewal and he highlighted the recommendation with respect to the renewal of its insurance portfolio at annual premium of \$1,150.00 plus applicable tax. He acknowledged the suggestion made by P. Wolf that lead to the decrease in the insurance premium and the importance of the Foundation having insurance coverage given potential liabilities.

A. Carswell joined the meeting at 5:32 pm.

Moved by R. Shipley  
Seconded by P. Elsworthy

THAT the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation (“WRHF”) accept report WRHF- TRR- 26- 001 for information with respect to the renewal of its insurance portfolio at an annual premium of \$1,150.00 plus applicable provincial sales tax of 8% (\$92.00), totaling \$1,242.00, through Instant Risk Coverage Inc. (“IRC”) under the terms and conditions outlined in report WRHF- TRR- 26- 001 dated February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and sign and return the No Claims Declaration, as required by the insurer to finalize renewal.

Year	Before Tax Amount	Tax	Total	% change (to nearest whole number)
2025	\$1,190.00	\$95.20	\$1,285.20	-52.5%*
2026	\$1,150.00	\$92.00	\$1,242.00	-3%

\* Reflects the midterm transition from the incumbent insurer to the IRC Affiliate Program in 2025

**Carried**

#### **4.2 Accounts and Grants Summary**

D. Emberly provided a line by line overview of the Accounts and Grants Summary including catering costs, The Architectural Conservancy (ACO) restricted donation of \$10,000, and remaining grant disbursements. He provided further background on the donation of The ACO, specifically, that there was a delay in processing the cheque that led to the cheque needing to be reissued. He noted that following the disbursement of the remaining grants there will be approximately \$142,084.50 remaining.

Received for information.

#### **5. Delegations**

None.

#### **6. Approval of Minutes - January 27, 2026**

Moved by P. Elsworthy  
Seconded by P. Wolf

That the minutes of Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation from January 27, 2026 be approved.

**Carried**

**7. Committees**

**7.1 Allocations and Finance**

The Foundation discussed the next grant window from April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026. D. Emberly noted that the completion of the grant projects are based on a year deadline and not on the Foundation's fiscal year of December 31st. There was consideration given to whether there could be capacity for two grant windows in 2026. There was further discussion on allowing the grant funding per window to be flexible and that following the closure of the grant window that the Foundation will determine if there will be another grant window in 2026.

N. Baskanderi joined the meeting at 5:52 pm.

**7.2 Heritage Advisory and Communications**

D. Emberly noted that the award nominations are due February 27, 2026. The Foundation directed staff to schedule the next Committee meeting on March 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in order to review the nominations. He noted that Board Members may nominate individuals for consideration as well.

N. Baskanderi confirmed that she is working toward finalizing the Foundation public display.

**7.3 Strategic Planning**

The Committee is planning to review the pilot project and provide the evaluation at the Foundation meeting on March 24, 2026. Staff were directed to schedule a Committee meeting for Tuesday, March 3, at 5:30 p.m. to review the pilot project and provide a recommendation to the Foundation.

**8. Information/Correspondence**

None.

**9. Other Business**

None.

**10. Next Meeting - Tuesday, March 24, 2026**

The next meeting of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation is on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

**11. Adjourn**

Moved by P. Wolf

Seconded by P. Elsworthy

That the meeting adjourn at 6:13 p.m.

**Carried**

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Committee Clerk

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Committee Chair

## Grant Extension Request

To: WRHF Board and Grant Committee

Hello:

The Waterloo Historical Society (WHS) board members would like to formally request a short extension to the grant that was received in March 2025 for the publication of 112th edition of our the WHS Annual Volume. This grant is set to expire on March 25, 2026.

Unfortunately, the Volume's editor had some medical issues that impacted his ability to complete the work and have the volume printed prior to the WRHF grant expiration date. The volume is in its final stages of editing and proofing and should be be at the printer by mid-April. We expect to have the printing done and the final receipts by the end of May, 2026.

In order to be sure that we cover any unforeseen issues, we would like to request a 3 month extension to June 30, 2026.

Regards,  
Jeff Shank, Treasurer, WHS



CENTRE FOR  
COMMUNITY  
BASED RESEARCH

A close-up photograph of several white daisies with bright yellow centers, set against a blurred background of more daisies. The image is partially obscured by a white text box at the bottom.

## Rethinking How We Support Heritage in Waterloo Region:

Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Strategic Program Review

## FINAL REPORT - AUGUST 2023

## Concrete Recommendations

This final section responds to research question #3: What do the answers above mean for the next steps of WRHF vision, structure, and process? The potential promising practices above were extensive and cannot all be implemented immediately (nor would that be strategic). Thus, the recommendations below aim to balance feasibility with urgency. The recommendations draw a connection to the WRHF draft vision, mission statement, and principles as well as the Waterloo Region strategic imperatives, to explain how they align and reinforce set goals. The components of vision, structure, and process are interconnected and interdependent, suggesting that intentional action is needed in each layer to create transformational change. The authors of this report, the Centre for Community Based Research created the first draft of this section, which was reviewed and shaped by the WRHF committee to ensure the concrete recommendations were practical and strategic for the organization.

### Vision

The recommendations related to vision are mostly around organizational reflection on values, beliefs, and strategic visioning. The steering committee's greatest priority was given to envisioning a definition of heritage that is inclusive and equitable. Since vision is less tangible than structure and process, many of these recommendations overlap. A first step towards rethinking the WRHF vision is to agree on the style of visioning the board wants to pursue on the topics below. For example, the board may choose to hire a strategic visioning facilitator and do a series of visioning sessions and/or a retreat. A potential output of visioning could be an organizational theory of change (also called a program logic model) that clearly states what the organization does, the anticipated outcomes, and how the two are linked.

**Envision a definition of heritage that is inclusive and equitable.** Reading and reflecting on this report is a good, concrete first step to imagine an inclusive definition of heritage in Waterloo Region. A tangible second step could be to develop written communication (through the website or other materials) that give an inclusive and equitable definition of heritage, to widen public understanding. Research participants responded positively to the definition of heritage provided in the roundtables, taken from John R. Welch, (2014), "Cultural Heritage What is it? Why is it important?" While this definition is a good starting point, the findings from the "Importance" section could expand on the definition, making heritage more tangible and relevant to the public. An example of an inclusive definition of heritage is provided by the government of British Columbia's heritage branch, which centers diversity and accessibility ([BC Heritage Branch](#)).

In the near future, the WRHF may develop anticipated outcomes for heritage projects. A description of anticipated outcomes would clarify what type of projects the WRHF funds, provide guidelines for how the applications are assessed, communicate the significance of EDI-D in heritage, and enable the WRHF to better report on the impact of their funding. Research participants named the following as indicators of a strong heritage project: 1) recognize the inextricable connection between tangible heritage, intangible heritage, and land, 2) recognize the harms of Western colonial heritage and existing heritage laws, and 3) value that racialized and newcomer heritage is often preserved and shared through art, culture, and storytelling activities.

**Unpack the layers of white settler heritage through an EDI-D lens.** Given the study finding that heritage is political and can promote belonging or exclusion, the WRHF may reflect on applications with the

questions: Who belongs? Who is excluded? What political ideology is being advanced? Corresponding with the first recommendation, the WRHF may communicate that heritage does not always shed a positive light on the past, but the WRHF welcomes projects that educate the public on the harm of settler-colonialism and racism, to promote understanding of Waterloo Region’s problematic or harmful history.

**Recognize intersectionality.** Given the finding that celebrating equity-deserving groups heritage leads to greater equity and inclusion in other aspects of community life, reflecting on whose identities are invisible or not represented in a heritage project is an important practice for fostering greater equity in communities. A starting point for this recommendation is to pursue an understanding of intersectionality through ongoing individual and organizational learning. This learning may be followed by tangible actions down the road such as 1) reviewing applications with an eye to whose voices are not being heard, 2) encouraging applicants to think about intersectionality in their telling of histories and heritage traditions.

**Embody the principle, “nothing about us without us.”** Research participants observed that there are few heritage projects led by equity-deserving groups in Waterloo Region. While tangible actions are being recommended later in “Structure” and “Process” for engaging equity-deserving groups in heritage funding opportunities, one key vision recommendation is to reflect on the importance of “nothing about us without us” in the funding of heritage. For instance, given that Indigenous healing and resurgence is a priority of Indigenous research participants, what considerations would the WRHF have when embodying “nothing about us without us” when evaluating a funding application on this topic? In sum, the WRHF may consider two vision-related recommendations: 1) When creating guidelines and criteria, involve folks from equity-deserving communities to ensure their heritage projects aren’t ineligible, 2) Support (not manage/direct) work being done by community and ensure that projects about marginalized groups are led by those groups.

## Structure

Of all the structural recommendations, establishing an equity funding stream and building an image of the WRHF that reflected EDI-D was agreed on by the steering committee to be priority. Many participants from equity-deserving communities did not know heritage funding would be relevant to them, so this funding stream and communication material will intentionally communicate the WRHF’s dedication to resourcing all types of heritage.

**Consider establishing an equity funding stream.** Given the finding that many equity-deserving groups do not apply for heritage funding because they do not see themselves included in this sector, launching an equity funding stream would help the WRHF fulfill their guiding principle, “strive to reduce barriers to equal access to our programs.” This structural change would align with the Region of Waterloo’s “Equity” strategic imperative, which aims “to pay attention to equity and deliver services that achieve equitable outcomes for marginalized groups in order to produce transformational results.” The first step towards this recommendation may be to learn about and later develop an equity funding stream, starting with the resources outlined in the above section. When drafting the funding stream, it would be beneficial to consult with equity-deserving groups, to embody the principle, “nothing about us without us” and address power dynamics.

**Review application requirements with an EDI-D lens.** A logical first step is to apply learnings from this project to the WRHF application requirements. This could be augmented by reviewing other heritage organization application requirements, outlined above. In future consultation projects, the WRHF could reach out to organizations such as the American Institute for Conservation and Heritage Toronto, to seek practical guidance on incorporating EDI-D into organizational structures, such as effective ways to call for applications (setting deadlines vs ongoing intake). The steering committee suggested a review or consultation with other funders in Waterloo Region would help the Foundation to distinguish their unique angle and ensure there is little overlap between their funding areas. Other recommendations for revising the application process include: 1) notify individuals and organizations well in advance of grant or award deadlines, 2) grant criteria should be relevant for diverse understandings and applications of heritage, 3) use plain language and avoid heritage lingo, 4) provide information sessions on the grants.

**Create more opportunities for networking.** The roundtables demonstrated a desire for more networking opportunities, as people who had never met learned about their similar heritage interests, prompting interest in continuing the conversation between their organizations. The WRHF is already set up to provide networking, as WRHF's draft mission includes the imperative to "connect community members with the broader heritage network to facilitate information sharing" (RFP Scope of Work). Expanding the WRHF's work on convening networks may strengthen the Region of Waterloo's "partnership" strategic imperative, which is about "fostering trusting relationships with people and groups to provide effective and excellent responses to community priorities." In addition, expanding in this area would advance the WRHF guiding principle to "value communities and collaboration... stiv[ing] to build community connections through leadership, collaboration, and education" (RFP Scope of Work).

The WRHF may begin by reviewing their capacity to provide networking opportunities and adjusting program planning accordingly. Potential avenues for either funding or facilitating heritage networking include, 1) a network for folks interested in collaborating on queer heritage, 2) spaces for cultural groups to gather and network on heritage topics, 3) a network for built heritage experts to advocate for more sufficient heritage designations and better public awareness, 4) a network that builds capacity in heritage, especially on EDI-D topics.

**Expand opportunities for young people to shape heritage.** Some research participants emphasized heritage is at risk because young people are not active in heritage activities or roles. Thus, engaging young people in heritage projects is a priority in Waterloo Region. A starting point for this recommendation is to communicate with organizations already working with youth about WRHF funding opportunities, such as Bring on the Sunshine, the Coalition for Muslim Women, and Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre. Organizations who already work with youth can seamlessly engage youth in heritage projects and as a result, enhance youth-led heritage in Waterloo Region.

**Build an image of WRHF that reflects EDI-D.** Research participants suggested that the WRHF should embody their commitment to EDI-D through their communications. Since what is known as heritage in Canada emerged as a European colonial tradition, the public may still conceive of the heritage sector as by and for white European settlers (White, 2021). By promoting an inclusive image, the WRHF may attract more diverse applicants. Much of the work recommended in the "Vision" category may provide relevant outputs for WRHF future communications. The WRHF may review resources related to EDI-D communication or consult with an experienced professional to: 1) consider how communications can reflect EDI-D (e.g., written, visuals, and website), and 2) communicate EDI objectives and vision

effectively. In the future, seeking resources to develop a social media presence would be valuable for raising public awareness and building relationships. An example of a strong social media account related to heritage, that the WRHF may draw inspiration from, is the National Park Service.

**Reward built heritage conservation practices and projects that support environmental objectives.** The WRHF may develop guidelines and priorities in heritage environmental objectives, in order to attract applicants with similar goals. The WRHF could draft a statement based on existing examples, such as the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and consult with conservation organizations. The consultation would simultaneously build awareness of the WRHF funding opportunities while shaping the criteria to be relevant and applicable to Waterloo Region. This recommendation aligns with the Region of Waterloo’s “climate action” strategic imperative as well as the WRHF draft vision of contributing to “sustainable communities.”

## Process

The recommendations related to process that are priority to begin early, are to build relationships with under-represented and equity-deserving groups interested in preserving, celebrating, and sharing their heritage and participating in ongoing organizational learning. These two areas were highlighted by the steering committee as being the most strategic to inform all EDI-D related work in the organization and raise the public’s awareness of the organization.

**Build relationships with potential heritage partners.** Many participants had never heard of the WRHF or only knew a little about them. To increase awareness and interest in the WRHF programs, some participants suggested organizational representatives build relationships with communities and organizations. According to Giovanni (2021), following up after gathering community input is important for relationship building. The summary report will be one such communication that may maintain interest in seeing next steps of WRHF programs, awaiting any further action or relationship building that happens as a result of strategic program review.

Indigenous participants were the most expressive of their recommendation to WRHF to build relationships with potential applicants. The WRHF could begin by building relationships with Indigenous organizations consulted in this study, and in the future continue to build relationships with others. This could include early steps: 1) visiting with the Indigenous organizations in spaces that are convenient for them, such as visiting the Woodland Cultural Centre, 2) attending/participating in community events such as the annual Waterloo Pow-wow. Continuing the precedent from this study, the WRHF should continue providing fair compensation when consulting with equity-deserving groups.

**Create hiring/recruitment procedures that ensure diversity in the organization.** This study found that diverse organizations attract diverse applicants. A heritage organization that is primarily made up of white people reinforces the idea (and power dynamics) that heritage is a sector by and for white Euro-settlers (AIC Website). Through building relationships with equity-deserving communities, there is a good chance the WRHF may find strong candidates for serving on the board. In the near future, when resources and capacity allow, the WRHF may seek out guidance on inclusive and equitable hiring and recruitment procedures.

**Participate in ongoing organizational learning.** To enhance understanding of equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization, the WRHF may identify and participate in personal and collective opportunities for

professional development. A participant suggested that the WRHF staff and board enroll in online courses such as the University of Alberta's ["Indigenous Canada" online course](#). It is possible that by expanding the WRHF work in facilitating a network, collective learning will take place that has an impact on WRHF and other organizations who participate. The number and duration of learning activities may be determined by the board's capacity.



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | PARTNER POST | YOUR STORIES

## Meet the people working to preserve and celebrate Waterloo Region's heritage

Feb 17, 2026

sccressman



Did you know the Region of Waterloo was among the first municipalities to invest in a heritage organization?

That organization is called the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation. Since 1974, it has helped preserve and celebrate this community's history and culture.

Nominations are open now for the foundation's latest round of heritage awards. Local people are doing lots of good work on our history and heritage, says David Emberly, the foundation's chair. He's eager to give all the awards this year – and hopes people won't be too humble to apply or nominate each other.

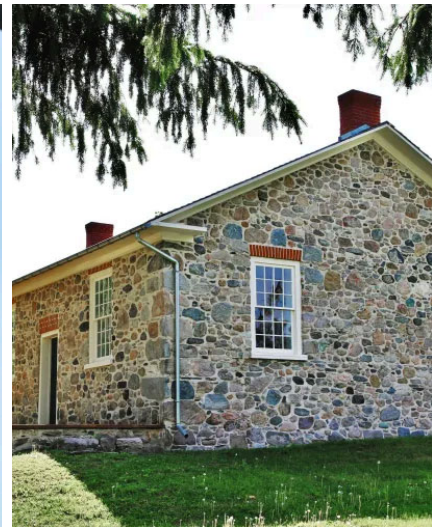
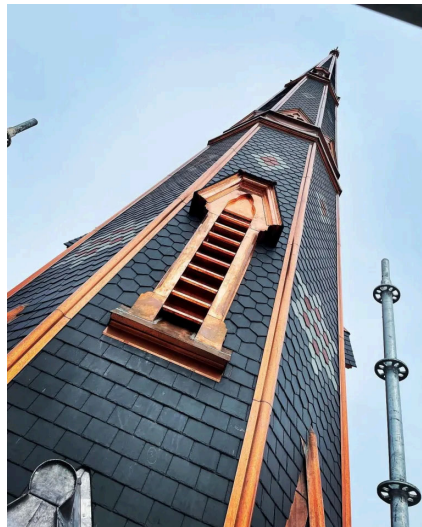
## What is the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation?

The foundation supports grassroots heritage projects with grants. This funding helps deserving people do research or create historical works that might not otherwise be done. The foundation can also provide expert advice.

In 2025, the board awarded nine grants for a total of \$81,500. Over its 50+ years, the foundation has given about 400 grants, ranging from \$100 to \$230,000.

The group is fully funded by the Region of Waterloo, but operates separately as a non-profit corporation run by a board. That board includes a few Regional Councillors but is mostly volunteers.

Many of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation's grants have traditionally helped restore and preserve old buildings:



## What is “heritage?”

But what we value as “heritage” changes over time, along with people’s values and community demographics.

The grants that might help homeowners with expensive repairs to ornate wooden porches or slate roofs on their 100-year-old homes are still important, Emberly says. That craftsmanship is beautiful and precious, and our community will lose their charm if we don’t preserve it.

Emberly explains, though, how the foundation is now shifting beyond buildings and architecture to include culture and “the way people express themselves.” For example, the 2025 grants included an Arabic calligraphy program and a multicultural festival in Elmira:



The foundation is looking to move forward with promoting and preserving heritage in a way that is equitable, diverse, and inclusive.

That new approach is explained more by the Foundation’s John Glass in this video produced by the Multicultural Festival of Elmira:

## 2026 awards now open

The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation presents awards to recognize people doing outstanding heritage preservation. You can apply here until February 27, 2026.

There are five award categories:

**Awards of Excellence:** recognizes outstanding contributions by individuals, institutions and organizations to heritage preservation in Waterloo Region, in such areas as archaeological, archival, cultural, education, genealogical, historical, individual, literary, media, natural, other. The program began in 1983.

**Sally Thorsen Award of Excellence:** presented to one person per year who has demonstrated at least 10 years of professional, outstanding commitment to heritage concerns.

**Dr. Jean Steckle Award for Heritage Education:** presented to an individual who has demonstrated leadership in heritage education through teaching, writing or by example, and who has encouraged and mentored others in the understanding and appreciation of the natural or cultural heritage of Waterloo Region.

**History Prize:** awarded to a piece of work published within the previous five years which has helped to educate and promote the heritage of the Waterloo Region.

**Heritage Research Award:** supports university students doing graduate research projects related to the heritage of Waterloo Region. This one requires additional documents to apply.

## Looking back, looking ahead

Back in 1974, one of the young foundation's first tasks was to buy and restore the historic Joseph Schneider Homestead. This is now the Schneider Haus National Historic Site, a community museum operated by the Region of Waterloo on Queen Street in Kitchener.

Its work continues in 2026: people looking for a heritage grant should watch for applications to open again in spring.

The foundation is just one of **many** groups across Waterloo Region working to preserve this community's history.

For more information, visit the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation's website.

Visit us again soon!

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Region of Waterloo

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# **WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



**Volume 86 — 1998**



## CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERSHIP

Back in 1973, one of the first priorities of the first Regional chair, Jack Young, was to ensure that the rich traditions of Waterloo County would not be forgotten. Many on the first Regional Council agreed. With their initiative the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation was created, a non-profit organization that grants funds to worthy heritage projects. It was one of the first initiatives of its kind in Ontario.

That first Regional Council also realized that the Foundation would succeed only if it worked in partnership with other heritage groups. As the senior heritage organization in the area, the Waterloo Historical Society was an obvious choice for charter membership on the Foundation. Its members' broad expertise has helped direct the Foundation in many ways. It is no coincidence, for example, that the Society's current president, Susan Hoffman, sat as chair of the Heritage Foundation during her eight years as a director.

Since 1973, the Society and the foundation have touched every corner of Waterloo Region, from Wellesley to North Dumfries, from Wilmot to Woolwich. The Foundation has helped fund over 185 projects, dispersing funds in excess of \$650,000. These funds have helped restore such local landmarks as the Joseph Schneider Haus, Castle Kilbride, and the Detweiler Meeting House. They have helped pay for micro-reproductions, oral history projects and publications that have helped preserve communities and memories that might have otherwise been lost. The Foundation has also been proud to help fund the Society's own annual volume, continuing a tradition that began with W. H. Breithaupt's first request for funds from the Waterloo County council back in 1912.

Much has changed over the years. In recent years, the Foundation supported a CD recording of a local group, Finnigan's Tongue, whose musical renditions of local stories will appeal to a generation that is just discovering our wonderfully diverse heritage. As the partnership continues between the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation and the Waterloo Historical Society, one thing is clear: our Region's past will have a future.

## FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY WITH FULL HOUSE

The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on November 18th, 1998. In a splendid setting provided by the Walper Terrace Hotel's Crystal Ballroom, 230 friends and guests convened to share in the Foundation's birthday celebration.

The anniversary event was chosen as a means of honouring 27 individuals and organizations who have demonstrated both commitment and dedication to furthering the cause of heritage appreciation in the region. The Foundation's chief engineer and former Regional Chair Jack Young was honoured along with historians Dr. Elizabeth Bloomfield and Dr. Ken McLaughlin.

Mr. Young delighted the audience with a walk down memory lane sharing some of the lighter moments of the Foundation's early days. Regional Chair Ken Seiling spoke fondly of Jack's positioning of the Foundation, laying the groundwork, and the Foundation's benefit to the Region over the past 25 years.

Guest Speaker, Wayne Wettlaufer, Provincial MPP for the riding of Kitchener brought greetings from the Premier and notes of



*Earl Evans*

Kitchener MPP Wayne Wettlaufer, founder Jack Young and Regional Chair Ken Seiling at the celebration.

appreciation from the Hon. Isabel Bassett, Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

Almost thirty organizations were represented at the anniversary celebration, the Foundation's largest gathering of heritage partners since its inception in 1973.

For grant requests and information regarding the Foundation, please call Deb Shantz at Regional headquarters at 575-4785 or surf us at: [www.region.waterloo.on.ca/wrhf](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca/wrhf)



*Earl Evans*



*Earl Evans*

Dr. Ken McLaughlin and Dr. Elizabeth Bloomfield received awards.