



Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society

Beaver River Museum

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March 14th, 2024

Mayor Walter Schummer and council,

Proposal: Brock Township join in a partnership with the Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society and become stewards of the 12 murals recognizing outstanding citizens of Beaverton.

These portraits to be hung and maintained by Brock Township during the period they are on display. Foster Hewitt Memorial Centre is the ideal location for them and would blend in and enhance the Master Plan being developed.

In the event for some reason the portraits have to be removed from the Community Centre, the Society would be involved in the process and if necessary be returned to the Society.

History: For the 125th Anniversary of Beaverton, Beaverton Special Events developed this project to recognize and honour outstanding citizens who have made significant contributions to Beaverton. Through the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Foster Hewitt Foundation, artist Bob Bastarache was commissioned to create the portraits.

The former Strand Theatre was their home for many years. When the building was recently sold, they did not fit into the new owner's vision. As a

result, Beaverton Special Events gifted the portraits to the Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society.

Maintenance: Some concerns were raised regarding the maintenance of the murals. Prior to the hanging of them on the Strand Theatre, they were finished and sealed with marine varnish in 2009. Since then, they have only required sealing one other time. The approximate life of marine varnish is 10 years. It would be recommended that they be sealed before hanging and no further work should be done with them for 10 years.



Summary: About the portraits, just a small snapshot of their contributions to Beaverton.

Dr. H. Ames (1919-1998) came to Beaverton from Hamilton in 1949, spending the next 45 years providing quality health care to the community.

Helen (McCord) McKenzie (1895 – 1980) she became Beaverton’s only female Reeve and served on local council for six years during which the original Beaverton Water Works was designed and constructed.

Foster Hewitt (1902-1985) He pioneered sports broadcasting in Canada, enriching the lives of hockey fans with radio broadcasts and then television play-by-play. He summered in Beaverton since 1934.

Duncan Macpherson (1924-1993) His outstanding career as an illustrator and political cartoonist took him around the globe to conventions and world events, always returning to his beloved Beaverton.

Dr. M Smith (1885-1956) Born in Cannington and came to Beaverton in 1909, spending the next 43 years serving the community as a rural doctor. In 1914 he designed and had the first medical centre built in town at the corner of John and Simcoe Streets.

William Gillespie (1926-1993) Serving on council for 19 years including 16 years as Reeve. During his tenure, he lobbied for the new home for the aged in Beaverton (Lakeview Manor); saw the installation of the sewage system, the community centre and reconstruction of the Mara St Bridge.

Peter McMillan (1859-1954) became the president of the Canadian Lacrosse Association in 1902. The McMillan twins took over the family's carriage making and blacksmith shop on the corner of Main St and Mara Rd.

William Smith (1835-1921) established his first foundry in 1871. Despite a fire the community rallied to assist the rebuilding and the Phoenix Foundry was established.

Duncan McMillan (1859-1946) was the Reeve of Beaverton in 1893 and served as town councilor for 5 years. He and his brother were founding and executive members of the famous Checkers Lacrosse team.

Rev. Dr. Alex Calder (1915-1992) was born, raised and educated in Beaverton before receiving a BA degree from the University of Toronto and a Doctorate of Divinity from Knox. In 1984 he was elected Moderator of the 110th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

Russell Morrison (1909-1994) was born and raised in the Beaverton area and actively farmed 350 acres until 1975. Russell held positions of Councilor, Deputy Reeve and Reeve of Thorah Township for over 19 years.

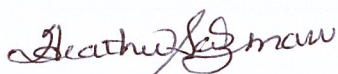
Rev. Dr. David Watson (1823-1903) as the minister of Beaverton's Old Stone Church for 45 years, Rev. Watson conducted services in Gaelic & English. For many years he reached out to the community by holding basic literacy classes for adults and became the local school inspector.

What incredible contributions! The Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society believes these portraits are very important and need to continue to be

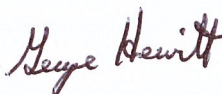
shared with our community. The Society would like to ask Brock Township to become the stewards of this collection and display them at the Foster Hewitt Memorial Community Centre. In fact one of the portraits is of Foster Hewitt.

What a wonderful tourist attraction heading to the waterfront; an enhancement to the Master Plan and a way to continue to honour the 12 individuals celebrated for their contributions.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Salzman
Curator/Admin



George Hewitt
President



Paul Thatcher
Property

c.c. Wayne Ward