

# The Broad Road

Newsletter of

**Manvers Township Historical Society**

1480 Hwy 7A, Bethany, ON L0A 1A0

March 2025



**SOUTH-EAST SIDE OF KING STREET, 1910**

This picture shows Thomas Jackson's store on the corner, Levi Sisson's grocery and barber shop, the post office, the old Town Hall, Charles Reynolds' furniture store and undertakers parlor.

**How the South side of Bethany Mainstreet has changed, some family buildings  
but so many now gone, photo from the MTHS collection.**

**Welcome Spring!**



## **Manvers Township Historical Society**

### **Executive 2024/25**

**President: Teresa Jordan**

**Vice President: Kathy Morton**

**Secretary: Dianne Carnaghan**

**Treasurer: Elaine Chapman**

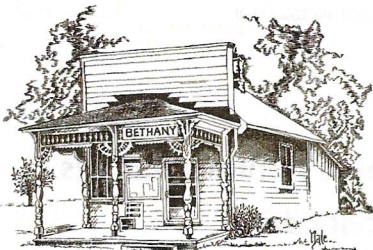
**Directors: Mary Hughes**

**Jan Johnson**

**Wendy Fallis**

**Helen McNaughton**

**Dale McGill**



**Contact us on Facebook or at  
[manvershistory@gmail.com](mailto:manvershistory@gmail.com)**

**1480 Hwy 7a Bathany, ON**

**L0A1A0**

**[www.manvershistory.ca](http://www.manvershistory.ca)**

## **MTHS Events and News**

So many exciting things are happening with the Manvers historical Society for 2025. We are applying for grants, permits and other needed support to create the installment of history at the Pontypool Grain elevator and make it virtually interactive. The research centre continues to expand its collection of information and resources. The museum space at the library is seeing many visitors and the committee is working on the next feature which focuses on farming past and a listing of century farms for Manvers Township. We have planned a number of events and you will find a save the date page in this issue of the Broad Road.

It is my greatest hope that you will consider getting involved in a project or event, contact any executive member for more information. We are also dreaming about expanding our membership, planning a big event/fundraiser in the fall and our work to digitize our archival collection.

All our dreams are missing your unique perspective as one of our members.

Our meeting schedule is worked out for the year based on your feedback as members, they are more regular. Hope to see you at the AGM on May 4 at the Janetville Hall. The next regular membership meeting is May 20 at Pontypool United Church featuring Paul Richardson speaking on his family's rich heritage in Pontypool.

"Yesterday is history" I recently heard it said, please share yours with the society, your stories, your photos, your memories are wonderful patches in the fabric of our rich community history.



# ***Typhoid Fever at the Orono Fair 1910***

Submitted by Teresa Jordan

Growing up my grandmother told me the story several times about how her two uncles died of Typhus from drinking the well water at Orono Fair. This seemed like quite a tall tale to a young girl, and I tried to find out more as an adult long after my grandmother had passed. I read a passage in Grant Curtis's book *Laugh and the world laughs with you in Pontypool* that helped fill in some of the blanks for me. In his book Ethal Gray recalls that Typhoid came to the village of Pontypool after the Orono Fair. She tells of her brother being sick with almost everyone that ate the meat that had been stored in the well. "They pulled the died by hand sleigh up the hill to be buried." Also, in Grant's book Roy McGill recollects that the meat was kept down the well at the Orono fair and "they went out there and they all had their dinner; oh, there was a lot that died. I remember Mel Masters died, the oldest one of the family...They set up some sort of hospital in Pontypool."

The following passages were taken from Sid Rutherford and Helen Schmid's book "Out of The Mists". Remembrances of Dr. W G McCulloch who moved to Orono from Pontypool in 1910

*It was Fair day in Orono (1910), and the hotel had cooked up meat ahead of time, preparing for the crowd. It was put down the well to keep. Nearly everyone who ate there that day was later taken sick with typhoid, and some died of it. Fortunately, I had been invited out for supper, or I could have been one of them.*

*From the World Health Organization:*

Typhoid fever is a life-threatening infection caused by the bacterium *Salmonella* Typhi. It is usually spread through contaminated food or water. Once *Salmonella* Typhi bacteria are ingested, they multiply and spread into the bloodstream.

Urbanization and climate change have the potential to increase the global burden of typhoid. In addition, increasing resistance to antibiotic treatment is making it easier for typhoid to spread in communities that lack access to safe drinking water or adequate sanitation.

*Salmonella* Typhi lives only in humans. Persons with typhoid fever carry the bacteria in their bloodstream and intestinal tract. Symptoms include prolonged high fever, fatigue, headache, nausea, abdominal pain, and constipation or diarrhoea. Some patients may have a rash. Severe cases may lead to serious complications or even death. Typhoid fever can be confirmed through blood testing.

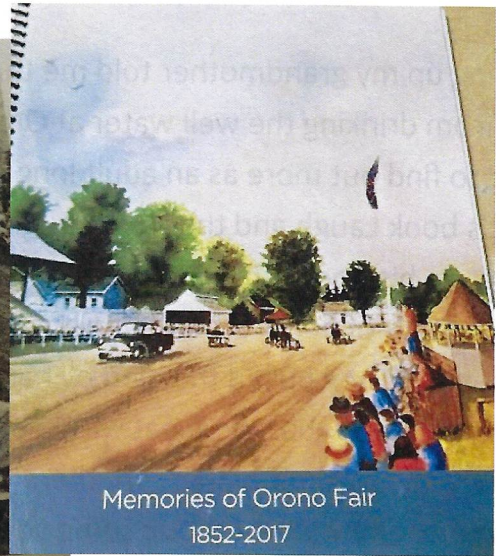
Prevention of typhoid fever focuses on improving sanitation, ensuring access to clean water, and practicing good hygiene, such as proper handwashing.



# Typhoid Fever at the Orono Fair 1910

Submitted by: Teresa Jordan

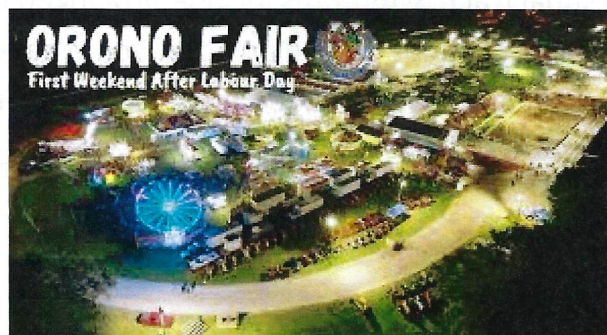
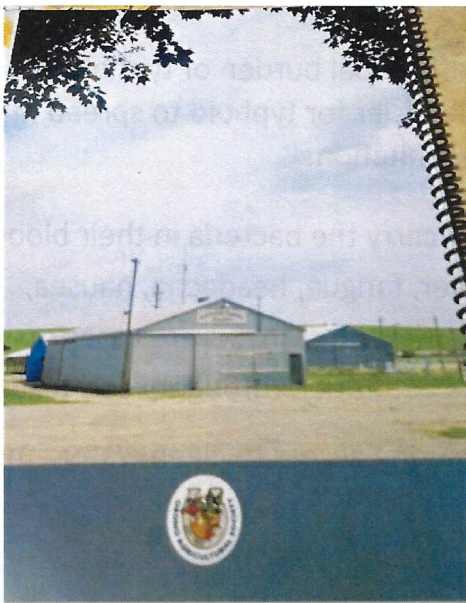
Orono Fair 1948



MRS. ETHEL TYRRELL

From the Orono agriculture Society, a commemorative book was printed in 2017. When I looked first at the timeline I saw that in 1910 the baby show competition began. What a hopeful and pleasant event for the tragic year. Directly below it lists: many people (115) that came to the fair contracted Typhoid fever having eaten at the North American Hotel. About 20 died.

The Orono fairgrounds were purchased in 1907 and interesting the Clarke Agricultural Society that organized the fair, first in Newcastle from 1852 to 1895 when it permanently moved to Orono, had branches in Cavan, Clarke, Darlington, Hope and Cartwright townships. From the Canadian Statesman September 10, 1936— the fair usually lasted for four days. On the business side, the questions of improvement of stock and crops came first, then the judging of horses, cattle and grain, followed on the following day with the distribution of prizes. On the third day, the ploughing match to decide the district champion. And on the fourth day exciting horse races.





# ***Typhoid Fever at the Orono Fair 1910***

Submitted by: Teresa Jordan

In another chapter of Out of the Mists about agricultural societies the authors write that Melville Masters a railroader and William Fowler, both of Pontypool were among the first deaths from the contaminated water. They also recount that a band from Bowmanville was hired to entertain at the fair all fell ill and two members perished: William Tucker and Isaac Hobbs.

I went through the deaths in Durham County in 1910 and found 14 people that had died from Typhoid after the fair.

**Ada Morrow- 44 years old- Orono**

**Ava Morrow 14 years old- Orono**

**Cecil Wellington Penwarden- 7 years old -  
Leskard**

**Daisy Gay- 10 years old – Clarke Township**

**George “Mel” Masters- 22 years old- Pontypool**

**Isaac Hobbs- 22 years old- Bowmanville**

**James Perrin- 28 years old – Pontypool**

**James Wood 43 years old- Clarke township**

**Mary Allin- 70 years old – Orono**

**Mary Ann Cale- 22 years old-Bowmanville**

**Mary Greece- 46 years old Orono**

**Walter Charles Penwarden- 17 years old-  
Leskard**

**William Fowler 36 years old- Manvers**

**William Tucker 53 years old- Bowmanville**

**Sarah Clark 12 years old- Bowmanville**



Pictured above is Charles Penwarden with his children circa 1896. Walter sits on his knee. Standing behind is Hazel Cornish, beside Mabel Tenant and to the right my Great Grandfather William Penwarden. Cecil and another girl Stella were not yet born. Just over a decade before great tragedy would strike this family.

To the left Isabella and Charlie Penwarden with their youngest daughter Stella.





# *Typhoid at the Orono Fair.*

Submitted by: Teresa Jordan

## More from "Out of the Mists"

*All but nine of the 115 persons partaking of that evening meal in the North American Hotel contracted the Typhoid, with about 20 deaths resulting. An eye-witness account of that fateful meal described it thus: "The flies were thick on the meat". The meat had been cut up during the afternoon and placed on the tables. Typhoid is frequently carried by flies. There were no bathroom facilities of the kind we know today. Also, there were heaps of horse manure in the backyard due to the stabling of horses in the hotel shed. It was not only a supposition, but a fact that the well water was infected. The well was later filled in.*

Photo from  
Picture the  
Way we  
Were memo-  
ries of Dar-  
lington and  
Clarke of the  
1910 Fair.



I have wonderful memories of going to the Orono Fair with my dad and meeting up with my great uncle Earl Penwarden. Such a loss for the Penwarden Family, two young men, along with many others. It heartens us all to know now that such a preventable epidemic would not be repeated with our laws and regulations. I remember and honour the souls lost in 1910 after a fun day out at the fair.



# Peter Robinson Settlers

Submitted By Kathy Morton

Peter Robinson was born in New Brunswick. He moved to Upper Canada and settled in the York area. He was also a militia officer during the War of 1812. He was later elected to the Provincial Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada in 1817 and represented York and Simcoe.

In 1823 the British government gave Robinson the job to supervise immigration of impoverished Irish families to Upper Canada. He became Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Peter Robinson never married. His father was Deputy Surveyor for Upper Canada. This position was then transferred to Peter. Brother John Beverley Robinson was the Attorney General in 1813.

People chose to come to Canada for social, economic and for land grants. This was the only time the British government paid to re-locate citizens to populate Upper Canada.

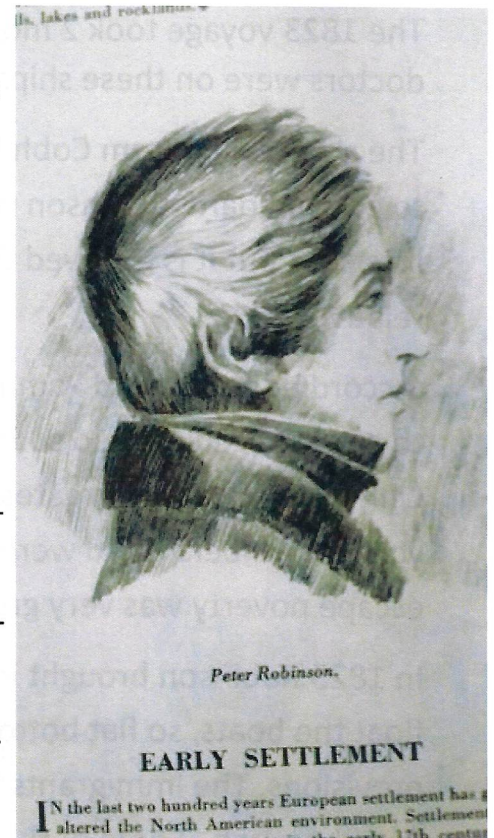
Land in Ireland was being divided for inheritance, therefore, small farmers couldn't sustain large families. Landlords also evicted settlers over political differences. Catholics couldn't rent land- just lease it. In some cases Catholics had land confiscated unless they pledged Oath of Allegiance to the protestant Crown. Many families became protestant in order to save their lands.

Catholic schools were known as "hedge schools" or private schools, teaching their citizens to read and write.

The average age of settlers to Canada was 35. They came here for more freedom of expression and freedom of religion as well as to forge a future for their family.

The first settlers were protestant Irishmen from Fermanagh. Then came the Catholic Irish from County Cork.

In 1823 Robinson had a hard time to fill his quota of 500 people. By 1825 some 50,000 applied on the recommendation of landlords and agents. Only 2,000 spots were available on the nine ships. They were Fortitude, Resolution, Albion, Star, Brunswick, Amty, Regalis, Elizabeth and John Barry .





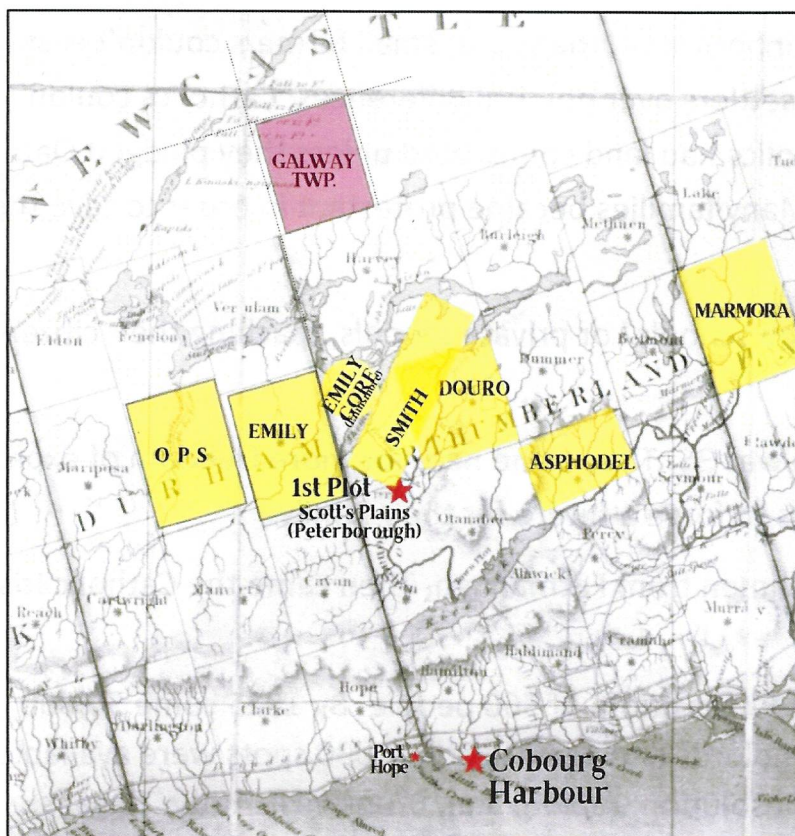
## Peter Robinson Settlers

The 1823 voyage took 2 months but in 1825 the voyage was only one month. Two doctors were on these ships to ensure that no one was ill.

The ships sailed from Cobh Ireland. Many people gave a false birthplace in order to get on board. Robinson wanted to reunite families with earlier settlers. Few lists exist but it is believed that family names and places of origin were indeed relatives.

According to Howard Pammett in "Lilies and Shamrocks" land grants were given to certain aged men so some lied about their age in order to secure property. Only those with the greatest need were supposedly eligible. Some documents of young members listed were actually brothers and sisters. The desperation to escape poverty was very great.

In 1825 Robinson brought immigrants to Cobourg. The waters were too shallow to float the boats, so flat bottom boats had to be built in order to transport the provisions. The immigrants travelled on foot from Gores Landing in Rice Lake to Peterborough. Some of the names of guides or bushmen or axemen were listed



as Best, McCamus, Peacock, Morton. These were earlier settlers. They travelled with the new settlers, brushing out a trail and also making sure that the settlers didn't get lost. They carried burning tree branches at night to scare off bears.

The bushmen, usually two people, built a shanty of split logs for the new settlers. The roof was slab bark with the holes filled with moss, mud or grass.



# *Peter Robinson Settlers*

Submitted by: Kathy Morton

A hearth of a few stones was made with a hole in the roof until a chimney could be built. During the first winter harsh cold temperatures and poor drinking water made their survival difficult.

Some settlers could choose their own land but when the area was covered with bush, it was hard to know if it was good agricultural land. The settlers traded properties or petitioned the government to change their land grant. In order to obtain a land grant one had to build a log house and clear two acres of land for cultivation within two years as well as clear brush from in front of the property.

The government rations were an axe, auger, hammer, 100 nails, 3 hoes, iron kettle, iron frying pan, 8 quarts of Indian corn and 5 bushels of seed potatoes. They also were given a pig and an oxen. Once the property was cleared, the rations stopped.

The Catholic immigration to the Peterborough area by Robinson were 82 families in Emily, 8 in Verulam and Ops, 67 in Ennismore, 19 in Smith, 50 in Douro and 39 in Otonabee. This group became known as the Peter Robinson Settlers.

By 1826 the settlers petitioned to have a grist and flour mill so that they could have flour for themselves and feed for their animals. Adam Scott mills were then built in the area.

The first Roman Catholic Priest was brought to the area of Priest's Landing (Riverside Cemetery Lindsay) by Patrick Connell. Patrick, known as King of Ops and Humphrey Finley, King of Emily, operated taverns in the 1830's

Today two million Irish descendants have roots from these immigrants. The resilience, fortitude, determination and hard work has allowed these families to become successful Canadian citizens.

Researched and written by Kathy Morton Manvers Township Historical Society

Research from Lilies and Shamrocks- Howard Pammett

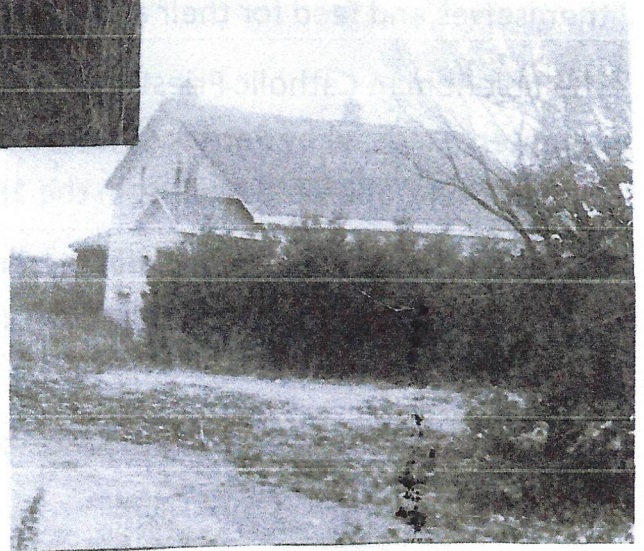
Peter Robinson Settlers- Carol Bennett



# Abandoned Houses

Submitted by: Dianne Carnaghan

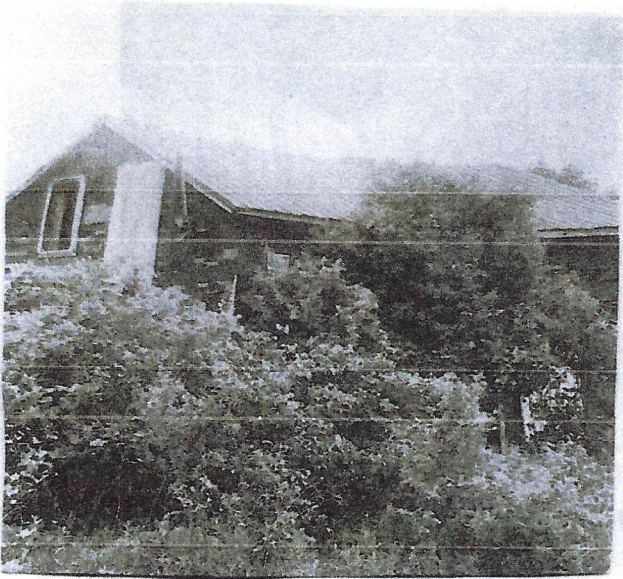
There is something haunting about an abandoned house that draws some people in. Why have these places been left to fall into ruin? Who built these houses, who lived and worked here and where have they gone? Some places are abandoned with all the possessions left behind. Was there no family left to look after things? People might have become bankrupt, the property could have been foreclosed or some terrible tragedy might have occurred to make them leave. Maybe they just didn't care. We will never know about the forgotten stories and lost dreams of these houses that have been frozen in time. There are a few abandoned houses in Manvers Township that I have taken pictures of. Their location will not be disclosed but perhaps you recognize them. One of the houses has been demolished. I'm glad that I was able to get a picture of that one before it was too late.



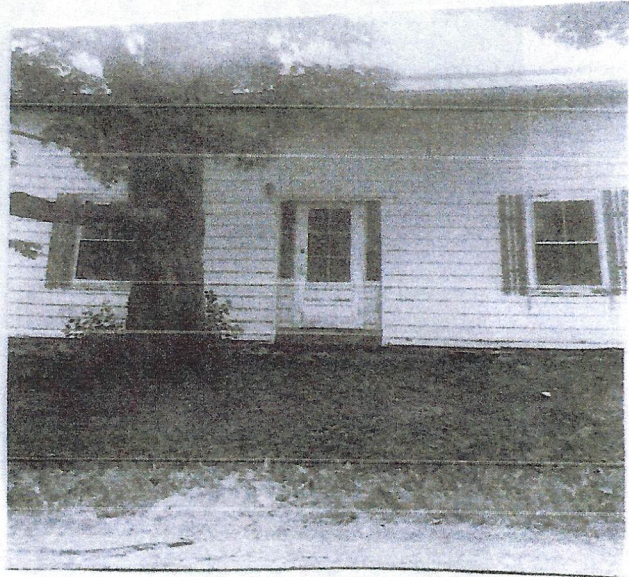
Submitted by Dianne Carnaghan



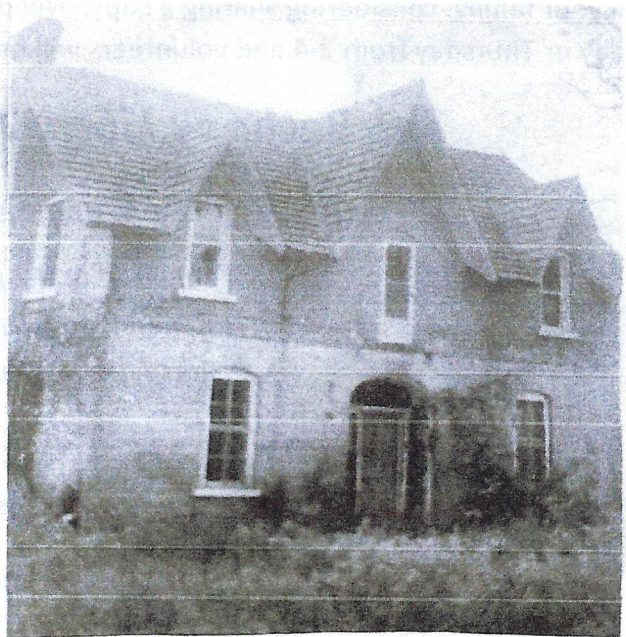
## *Abandoned Houses*



Reclaimed by nature



This building has not been abandoned  
but it is not lived in



Once a beautiful home



## The Research Centre

*Come and discover your family, your history.*



All these family tree research binders are at your finger tips at the Research Centre. Are you the genealogist in your family, considering sharing a copy. Need some information, stop in at the Research Centre on Tuesday or Thursday from 2-4 and volunteers will help you find what you need.

## The Bethany Library MTHS museum space

*Come and discover your community heritage, your history.*



Featured at the museum space is the cheese wheel from the Burn General Store in Janetville. It sits atop a church table from Janetville Presbyterian Church. Both items donated by Robert Burn.

**Spread the word, donations are always welcome, both artifacts and all sorts of archival information including scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, photos and all types of posters/ads.**





# SAVE THE DATE

## MANVERS TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**SUNDAY, MAY 4TH  
1:00 PM**

- AGM at Janetville Hall
- Guest Robert Winslow of the 4th Line Theatre

**SATURDAY, MAY 17TH  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

- Book Sale at Old Post Office

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

- Plant/Bake Sale & Open House at Library Museum

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND  
2:00 PM**

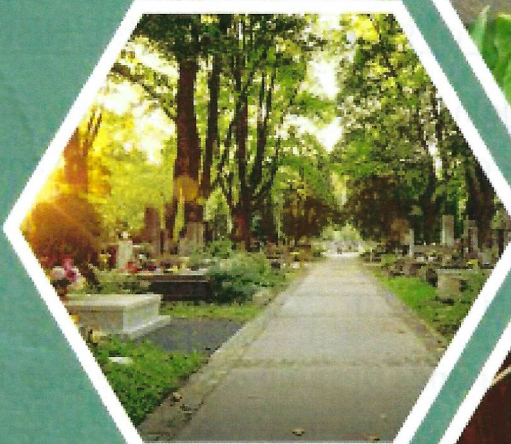
- Cemetery Walk Pontypool

**SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 14TH  
2:00 PM**

- Veteran Banner Dedication at Pontypool Community Centre

**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 4TH  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

- Bake/Book Sale & Open House at Library Museum





### Find us on the Web

Manvers Township Historical Society has an active presence on Facebook with thousands of hits each week looking at old photos or newspaper clips. Over 1500 people follow the site and add to its information with comments and shares.

If you wish to add something to the site, send it by message directly on Facebook or email Teresa Jordan at [teresaanddon651@gmail.com](mailto:teresaanddon651@gmail.com).



[www.manvershistory.ca](http://www.manvershistory.ca)

### Become a member of Manvers Township Historical Society

If you would like to join the Manvers Township Historical Society or if you wish to renew your membership, please complete the following form and mail to:

**Manvers Township Historical Society**

**Box 173 Bethany, ON L0A1A0**

The membership year ends December 31. The membership fee for a year is \$20.00.

*\$5.00 per year to have newsletter mailed regularly.*

Corporate Membership fee is \$25.00.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or postal box: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_