



*Preserving, promoting, and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.*

## **CULTURAL MOMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 CELEBRATING**

### **THE WELLINGTON NORTH CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE**

In 2014, under the leadership of April Marshall and Dale Small after the Municipal Cultural Plan was adopted in 2013, the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable was formed.

The first committee planned Doors Open, the Wellington North Farmers' Market and Cultural Mapping.

The Farmers' Market opened on May 20, 2014 at the Victory Community Centre and celebrated 10 successful seasons in 2024. It was originally on Friday afternoon but has since moved to Saturday mornings with improved signage, and an increase in vendors and patrons.

Doors Open is an annual province-wide themed activity which was very well attended as a one-day driving tour with a passport. In the following years, the Cultural Roundtable moved to promote Culture Days during September and early October.

From the original Municipal Cultural Plan came a recommendation to create a cultural map, as well as forming a Heritage and Architectural Preservation Committee. Council has approved our recommendation of naming future streets in both Arthur and Mount Forest to be culturally significant.

In 2017, the entire committee became involved in writing the Cultural Moments to be read at Council meetings, one per month. In 2024, the committee aims to present one Cultural Moment per meeting, which are now accompanied by a video. It has been a wonderful experience to research and put together these culturally significant facts and a bit of folklore.

The Mount Forest Cemetery project came to the committee to photograph and publish headstones in the cemetery to the Find a Grave website. About 3,500 pictures have been added to the website with sincere thanks from family members and researchers who have used them.

Celebration planning for the Township's 20th anniversary, as well as our committee meetings, were interrupted by COVID-19. We moved to Zoom meetings for 15 months when it was not feasible to plan any cultural events.

With the help of a summer student, the committee has been able to support and expand on several initiatives. One such initiative was a Mount Forest Cemetery walk, organized and researched by Morgan McCannell. The entry fee to participate was a donation to the local food bank, and the event was sold out.

The Poppy Project in Arthur was launched leading up to the 150th anniversary of the Village of Arthur. The community really came through, with over 1,800 poppies donated. They were attached to netting and have been displayed the past two years for Remembrance Day.

Support and sponsorship of our local cultural events and people have included the Lynes Blacksmith Shop, musicians who play at the Mount Forest Fireworks Festival, Arthur Fall Fair and Metz Pumpkinfest, Four Corners Quilters' Guild, a veteran's book published by the Arthur Historical Society, Northern Lights Keyboard Kamp, a barn quilt trail brochure and a Barn Quilt with the Cultural Roundtable logo at the Arthur and Area Community Centre. In 2024, the Cultural Roundtable supported the 25th Anniversary of Amalgamation events, including the Art Contest, of which the winning entries will be installed at one of three Township-owned buildings later this year.

The Cultural Roundtable is looking for new members to join the committee. If you want to learn more, or be a guest at the next Cultural Roundtable meeting, contact Mike Wilson at [mwilson@wellington-north.com](mailto:mwilson@wellington-north.com) or call 519-848-3620 ext. 4236.

*Submitted by Bonny McDougall, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable*