

Mulgrave & Derry Historical Society 2021

Greeting from Don Smallian

Christmas comes and goes once a year, unlike Covid-19 which came and just won't go away. I hope you all have escaped the health impacts of this virus. One of the casualties of Covid-19 is the MDHS Annual Meeting and the approval of our yearly budget. However, the Board has not started any new projects and the few expenses we have are required to keep the Society functioning. The Board has met twice since the beginning of Covid-19 to review ongoing projects.

We again decided to postpone typical Open Houses at the MDHS museum in the parsonage building this year, but are looking forward to seeing members once again next summer!

The Board would like to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hopefully we can meet with you at our Annual General meeting this coming spring.

MDHS Finances

Please note, we are planning to re-institute our modest \$5/individual annual membership fee this spring as the new fiscal year gets underway in May.

Please find attached the membership form, which can be printed and mailed to our Treasurer Jim Nicol at the address on the form, or scanned and sent by email to Jim at jim.e.nicol@gmail.com.

Our fiscal year ended on April 30th 2021; the current year's finances are as follows:

Annual Operations balance after expenses: \$174.56
Total MDHS Assets: \$3812.42

Historical Society's Highlights of 2021

2021 Remembrance Day – Lest We Forget

Organized by Don Smallian and Veteran Bernard Scheire with the assistance of Michael Kane, M&D Remembrance Day 2021 was held at Our Lady of Light Church, in front of the cemetery. Close to 50 people attended the ceremony among which were Veteran Rousseau and Lieutenant-Colonel French. Following opening remarks by Don Smallian, Veteran Bernard Scheire detailed the context of the ceremony which honours the courage and devotion of all those who made the supreme sacrifice of dying for their country. Sienna French and Michael Kane read *In Flanders Field*. Father Greg then led the prayer and the Act of Remembrance followed by two minutes of silence. Finally, Sheila Achtell read the names of Mulgrave-and-Derry deceased and living veterans, while Mayor Beaubien and Don Smallian proceeded with the wreath laying. *MDHS wishes to thank Our Lady of Light for the use of their grounds.*



Historical Sights

We've added a few new stories to our website, including images and write-up of Akert's Creek. These first-hand accounts from Don are based on many of the named landmarks featured on MDHS historical brown signs along the roads of Mulgrave. (...and speaking of those signs, we wish to thank the Municipality for replacing signs this year which had been vandalized or "borrowed".)

See: <https://mulgraveandderry.wixsite.com/historicalsociety>

An Update on our Yank and Veterans Projects

Sheila has been working diligently behind the scenes to compile insights and photographs on the furniture of Herman Yank. The story of this M&D forebear can be found on the website under Projects. Thank you to Richard Yank for additional content and context.

The Veterans Project is a living document where the Society welcomes input from Mulgrave & Derry families on their ancestors or presently-serving military members. The current information can be found under that project tab on our website.

Update on M&D Coat of Arms Project

Our municipality continues to work with the Governor General's Heraldry department to develop a Coat of Arms for the region. Second-stage revisions to the art work were received in November with further changes requested. Don, Sharon, Shirley and Julie from the Historical Society Board, with Michael Kane and Marie-France Gareau from Derry are keeping this in motion. Unfortunately, the pandemic continued to impact the production this year as we learned that many organizations and individuals submitted for heraldic work. We hope to see the final result later in 2022.

Your Input Requested!

Oral Histories: We are starting a new initiative, speaking with our elder citizens who hailed from Mulgrave & Derry to capture stories of days gone by. If you have a suggestion of someone to approach, or if your older family member would like to share their memories for posterity. The project contacts are Sandra Miller and Gary Teske.

Call for photos: If you or your family members have discovered photographs of older gatherings or events in the local region, olden day landmarks, etc., please consider donating these or allowing us to make copies for long term retention. The project contacts are Sheila and Ashley Achtell.

For any input to our projects, please send a message through our Facebook page "Mulgrave Derry" or email us at: mulgraveandderry@gmail.com