



The Beledoon News



A newsletter reflecting activities of the "Von Ayres Cultural Centre"
Wallaceburg & District Historical Society, Wallaceburg & District Council for the Arts, Jeanne Gordon Hall
and Wallaceburg & District Museum
e-mail: museumpr@kent.net online: www.wallaceburgmuseum.ca

Lest we forget



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A message from the Curator's corner

Kaelyn Gregory



As we turn our attention to another Day of Remembrance, I am reminded of the weight of this occasion. It is truly hard to put into words the sacrifices made by our veterans. In the museum, we have tried to highlight these sacrifices and give our thanks. Some new displays are in for November. We are open outside our regular hours for Remembrance Day if you would like to come by to see the tribute.



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Wallaceburg History Trivia

1. What year did production begin at Sydenham Glass?
2. What was Wallaceburg's first industry?
3. The first brick house build in Wallaceburg was built for the first Mayor. Who was it?
4. What was the name of the first bridge in Wallaceburg?
5. What was the name of the theatre that followed the Temple Theatre?

Answers page
5



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An editorial by Jim Mulgrew

Original Lee Magazine rifle 1878.

In 1878, James Paris Lee (1832-1904) and his brother John perfected a box magazine which enabled rapid rifle fire. A well-trained rifleman could get off approximately 15 shots a minute.

The prototype was tested successfully in Wallaceburg across the Sydenham from the Lee Bros. Foundry and is on display in the museum. The rifle was perfected in Wallaceburg on a site opposite the Municipal Building. The box magazine became known as the Lee principal. Patent rights were purchased by England after Canada turned down the offer. England bought the patent rights for 50,000 pounds plus 50¢ for each magazine.

The rifle was produced in Enfield England in 1888, thus the "Lee Enfield" name and a steel spry was added which forced out the empty shell and pushed the new bullet into place. This development led to the production of the new "Lee Enfield" rifle. These rifles went on to be some of the most famous of the world wars. It was the standard military issue for the British and its colonial armies for approximately 60 years and remained in service longer than any other rifle in history. The major benefits of this rifle compared to others of the period included a ten-round magazine, a quick rate of fire, superior accuracy, reliability in harsh conditions, and a lightweight design.

In 1975, they erected a plaque in civic park that stated, "Tradition holds that this (the first firing) occurred at Wallaceburg while Lee was visiting his brother John, a local foundry owner." The plaque is located in Civic Park close to the original location of John Lee's foundry.

Gaven Myszkowski's (a Lee Rifle Historian) patent information and the oral testimony of the Lee family it is reasonable to assume that this rifle is "the prototype" and was created in 1878.

Used in:

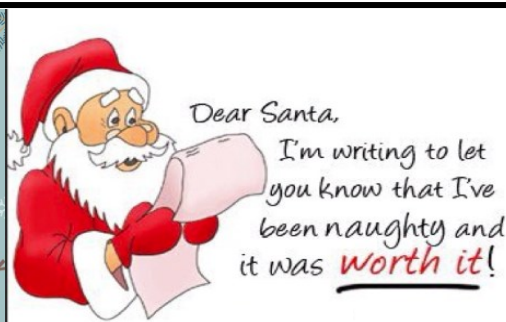
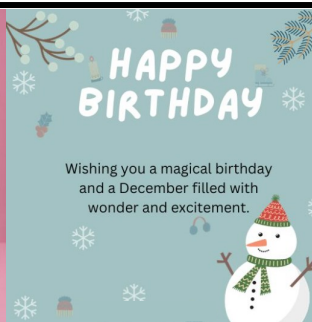
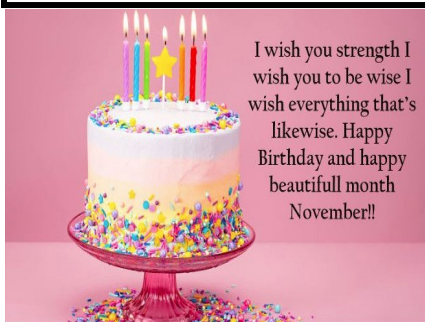
Boer War (1899-1902)

World War I (1914-1918)

World War II (1939-1945)

Korean War (1951-1952)

We also have John Lee's original workbench and some of his tools that were used in perfecting the rifle.



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Stick with me and we'll go places!

What's every parent's favorite Christmas Carol? Silent Night.



Beledoon News

Are you looking to expand advertising as a small or large business? Has your family and family name been here forever? Perhaps you would like to advertise in our Beledoon Newsletter. The newsletter gets published 6 times a year. Cost for year \$100 for a family, \$125 for a business. For more information please contact the Museum.

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EASY History Trivia

Wallaceburg History Trivia Answers

1. 1984
2. Lumber
3. James W. Steinhoff
4. North Branch Bridge (Today's walking bridge)
5. The Alexander Theatre (1930-1954)

Questions page 2




**The Beledoon News
Newsletter of the
Wallaceburg & District Historical Society Inc.**
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Myrna Jewell, Neil Martin, Jim Mulgrew,
and Henry Van Haren**
*Please feel free to contribute to the next
newsletter.*

B I N G O
HOMETOWN

1416 DUFFERIN AVE., WALLACEBURG, N8A 2W5
DAILY AT 7:00 P.M. 519-627-1346

**THE JERRY BENN FAMILY
IS A
PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE BELEDOON NEWSLETTER**

Yesterdays by Myrna Jewell

War Delays Heinz Factory

As I write this, the museum is gearing up for Remembrance Day so I thought it might be interesting to read from the Wallaceburg News during the latter months of 1939.

Officially, World War Two was declared when Nazi Germany invaded Poland on September 1st, 1939, however, there were many factors which had already been causing tension throughout the world. In 1933, Adolf Hitler rose to power and his desire for dominance by creating an "Aryan Race", resulted in transforming Germany into a war state. Also, countries who took part in World War One had unresolved political tensions. In addition, Japan's invasion of China, the Soviet Union's desire to invade old territories of the Russian Empire and the Great Depression all played their part in starting another world war.

So, I was surprised to see while scanning through the pages, there is little reference to the troubles in Europe and Asia. In fact, industry was growing with a full-page ad from H.J. Heinz seeking votes to



H. J. Heinz Co., Wallaceburg, Ontario

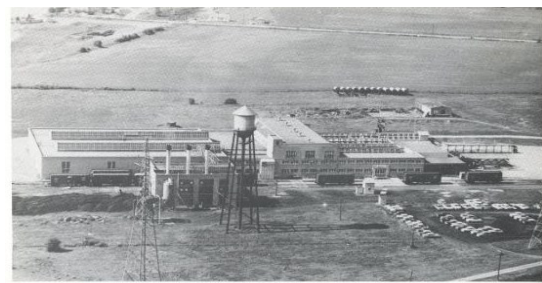
open a new plant endorsed by previous mayors including Dr. A.G. Campbell, T.F. Hinnegan, S.S. Stonehouse and J.T. Saint. Many of the established manufacturers approved of the new plant including Dominion Glass, Hawkin Milling, and Shultz Die Casting – all for the great "Advancement of Wallaceburg." Boasting that a new factory would increase employment, add value to property, and reduce the relief load of the town. You can feel the enthusiasm ooze from the pages. The town unanimously voted "Yes" for the plant and plans were put in place.

Land was purchased and work was scheduled, however, by the time all this was set in place, the war began to affect Canadians. Resources were directed to the war effort and the building of the Heinz factory was stopped.

By Christmas 1939, the war was starting to become part of the lifestyle of residents with the first organized Red Cross Drive for the war effort and the Kinsmen Kommunity Karnival was arranged "In the Spirit of Peace". However, food was not yet rationed and bus trips to Detroit and Windsor still regularly running.

But by 1940, Canada was swept up into the conflict, supplying the allies with vital troops, food, artillery and supplies. The lives of many Canadians – and people from all over the world - changed forever.

As for the Heinz factory, building operations resumed in 1944. Even after the war ended, rationing stayed for many years to come, however, Heinz Co was given special permission by D.S. Dixon, the man in charge of manufacturing in Canada, to begin production on their food processing plant.



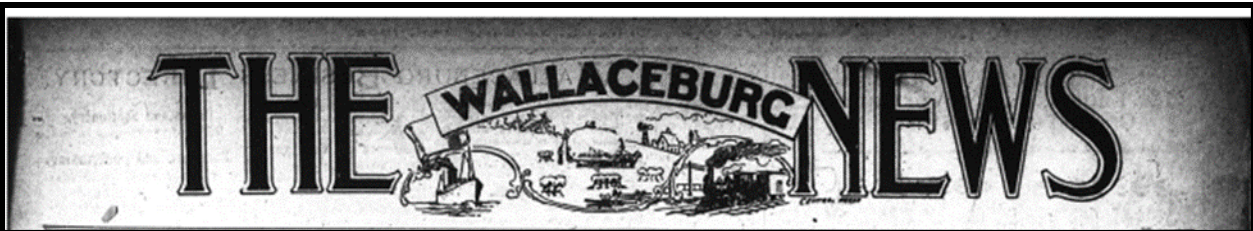
ONE OF LIBBY'S MANY MODERN PLANTS - WALLACEBURG, ONTARIO



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Early 1950's

Recently I was tasked with doing some research for events and projects that took place in the early 1950's. Unfortunately, we were missing the hard copies of the newspapers in our collection for the years 1953, 1954 and 1955. I first needed to digitize the missing years from the Microfiche collection at the library in order to find much of the information I needed.

As I read through these papers, I noticed that there was a large amount of construction happening around town. The Memorial Arena had been finished a few years prior and several new projects were on the agenda. Below I have listed some headlines and brief descriptions of articles I found in the 1953 and 1954 newspapers, with many of these projects remaining today. (I will get to late 1954 and 1955 later)

Separate School Board Plans New School on Dufferin. (WN, 1/6/1953)

This refers to the Rosevale School, renamed A.A. Wright School on Elm Dr. just south of Dufferin Ave. This article also describes an addition to St. Thomas school at a cost of \$140,000.

Construction of Steel Plant Expected Soon (WN, 1/8/1953)

The Jessop Steel Company will award a contract for the construction of the first building ... The long-range plans included having 10 -12 acres under one roof.

Ontario Hydro approves \$235,000 expansion of Queen Street Substation (WN, 2/2/1953).

This expansion was needed to improve hydro services in both urban and rural areas.

The town's electrical system was being changed over from 25 cycle to 60 cycle which is still the current standard today.

Council Approves Money for School Addition (WN, 3/19/1953)

Proposed addition to Wallaceburg District High School

Concert to Open Drive for Hospital Funds (WN, 4/2/1953)

Formal start of fundraising drive for new Sydenham District Hospital starts with concert by Wallaceburg Kiltie Band.

Wallaceburg Council Approves Agreement on Running Creek (WN, 4/9/1953)

New bridge over running creek finally a go.

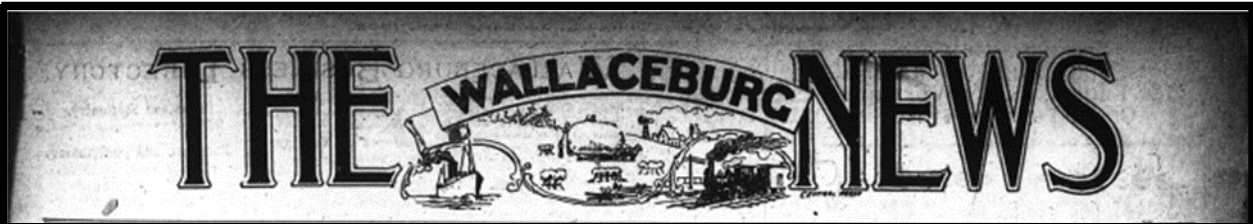
Ceremony Opens New Rosevale Public School (WN, 11/24/1953)

A A Wright Public School opens.

Also at this time, work was being completed on the widening of Dufferin Ave and the McNaughton connecting link to Highway 40 south.

Open New White Rose Service Station (WN, 1/5/1954)

New service station opens Dec. 19, 1953, at 217 Margaret Ave.



Early 1950's

New Bank for Wallaceburg (WN, 1/19/1954)

The Dominion Bank to build at corner of Dufferin & Selkirk Bridge.

Open for business in temporary location at 817 Dufferin. WN, 2/23/1954

Wallaceburg Council to Move into Spacious Hydro Building (WN, 1/21/1954)

Proposed transfer of all Civic Departments, except Fire and Police Departments. First floor of Hydro building to be used for Water, Hydro and Tax payments, Hall to be used as offices for personnel and department heads.

Council Fails to Decide Move to Hydro Hall (WN, 2/18/1954)

Council was unable to agree on terms and conditions provided by the Hydro Commission.

Trinity United Church to Build New Addition (WN, 2/23/1954)

The addition would be used for youth activities and Sunday School and would be built on vacant property on east side of the Church.

Mr. J. A. Burgess Announces New Industry at "The Brass Night" Dinner (WN, 2/25/1954)

The Wallaceburg Singer LTD plant to be built next to the Dominion Die Casting Co. plant.

Hospital To Be Started Early This Summer (WN, 2/25/1954)

Ten Acre site east Margaret Ave donated by H. V. Martin for hospital.

Work Underway on New Burg Bank (WN, 3/18/1954)

New Dominion Bank on Dufferin Ave going up.

New Bridge Is Planned Over Creek (WN, 3/18/1954) & (WN, 3/25/1954)

Old Forhan St. Bridge to be removed and new bridge put in. Old bridge was condemned eight years ago.

Water Main Being Laid on Margaret Ave. (WN, 7/8/1954)

8" & 6" line to be laid from Dundas St. to Dora Dr.

Concrete Structure Started on New Town Incinerator. (WN, 8/19/1954)

New incinerator being built at town dump site.

This was a busy time in Wallaceburg as growth continued to take place and many signature buildings went up.

I will continue in next edition to finish 1954 and 1955 construction happenings in town.

Written by Henry Van Haren

From the Backroom

As a volunteer, one of the many projects that we can be asked to assist in is the photographing and identifying various objects. The museum has a number of World War I Welcome Home Medals to those who served from the Wallaceburg area.

According to Ross W Irwin's article in the Canadian Military Medals and Insignia Journal, Volume 17 (1) of March 1981, there were seven known World War I stock patterns of Welcome Home Medals with various obverse and reverse designs, by different manufacturers. The Wallaceburg Welcome Home Medal is a stock pattern manufactured in sterling silver by Roden Brothers, Toronto, ON.

The obverse is Britannia standing, with the Union shield at right hand, her left holds a branch of laurel over a soldier wearing a forage cap, the inscription FOR SERVICE is above.

The reverse has the words PRESENTED TO ---- BY THE CITIZENS OF WALLACEBURG FOR GALLANT SERVICES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918.

It has a ring suspension and a top suspension bar with a Beaver facing right, blank if the member returned and IN MEMORIAM if they paid the ultimate price.

Some have a red, white and blue ribbon attached and others have been found in a purple velvet covered jewelry display box.

Who ran the program, how they were issued and who engraved them locally is not known – a future project for the local archives and newspapers of the time.

We will remember them.



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**Would you like to exhibit your work
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**The Wallaceburg and District Museum and
the Wallaceburg and District Arts Council
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gallery commission.**

**Please contact museumpr@kent.net or
contact@wallaceburgartscouncil.com**

ON DISPLAY IN THE GALLERY



**This November, the Wallaceburg Museum and the Wallaceburg Arts Council invite you to visit
the art gallery and experience the paintings of local artists, photography, along with a special
exhibit in commemoration of Remembrance Day.**

Special thank you to Jane and Neil Martin



**Advice from a
SNOWMAN.**

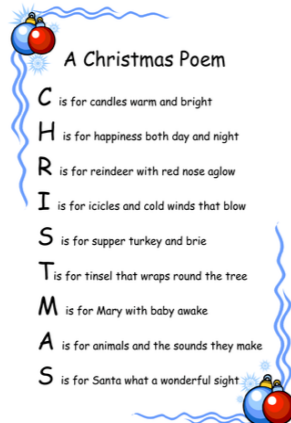
Be a jolly, happy soul
Spend time outdoors
Stay cool
It's OK to be a little bottom heavy
Avoid meltdowns
Be well-rounded
Live well, life is short!



COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS



are always a welcome gift,
and presenting a batch in a
basket is a sweet
way to say Merry Christmas
to your very special friends.
Send the recipe along on a
card, and they can
eat the cookies—and have
them, too. For the cookie connoisseur or the brand-
new cook, cut out the recipes, and make
them into a Christmas-Cookie Cookbook.
And if you want to give a present
that's really sumptuous, make a
big assortment of cookies, and
tie up both in a pretty package.



A Christmas Poem

C is for candles warm and bright
H is for happiness both day and night
R is for reindeer with red nose aglow
I is for icicles and cold winds that blow
S is for supper turkey and brie
T is for tinsel that wraps round the tree
M is for Mary with baby awake
A is for animals and the sounds they make
S is for Santa what a wonderful sight!



**Advice from a
SNOWFLAKE.**

Keep your cool
Appreciate small wonders
Let your plans crystallize
Take time to chill
Sparkle!
Celebrate your uniqueness
It's OK to be a little flaky!

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November - December Events

AT THE MUSEUM

Bus Trip Frankenmuth, MI

Saturday, November 16, 2024 7:00am to 8:00pm

Frost Fest at the Museum

Thursday, November 21, 2024 4:00pm to
8:30pm

Christmas Decorating at the Museum

Everyone Welcome

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 9:00am to 3:00pm

Holiday High Tea

Saturday, November 30, 2024
12:00pm to 1:30pm

Come Visit Santa Claus Stocking Stuffer Vendors

Saturday, December 7, 2024 10:00am to 2:00pm

Cookie Exchange

Saturday, December 7, 2024 10:00am

The Museum will be closed Sunday, December 22, 2024
and will reopen Thursday, January 2, 2025