

2024 - A YEAR OF PROGRESS

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I don't mean to sound like a broken record when I continue to say that it never ceases to amaze me how much our volunteers have accomplished. But this past summer season is no exception. And I am pleased and honored to acknowledge those who have recently joined our team of volunteers. Some of these folks are motivated by their past family ties to our community, and others have recently come to the Port Hope area and have reached out to join our efforts to celebrate our rich history. We welcome these recent arrivals with open arms. They bring a rich variety of skills and talents to share with us.

I am also grateful to those who have supported us with memberships, financial contributions, gifts of artifacts and family records.

This issue of the Historian newsletter will highlight the accomplishments of an enormous amount of dedicated volunteers. Thankfully there has been a delightful collection of photographs and narratives that document the variety of activities.

To all of you -- thank you for your help!

Jim Hunter

IN 2024, LOTS HAPPENED AT THE LUMBERYARD!



Concrete. Nails. Lumber, Paint. Roofing. Wiring, signs. Bushes, plants, trees, Computers, Printers, and much, much more. All utilized as part of the Port Hope Historical Societies weekly activities throughout the year.

Now add to this the hundreds of items donated to the Society.

Add in the dozens of hard-working volunteer Port Hope Boyz and Port Hope Girlz to sort and categorize incoming items, climb the ladders, hammer the nails, build out the theme rooms, hang the signs, create the beautiful garden, etc. One can say that we have, one beautiful facility, museum that has progressed substantially in the last year with much more to follow. We are quickly becoming a "destination point" for the Michigan Thumb Area.

The following pages will show a variety of pictures and captions describing the accomplishments over the past year.

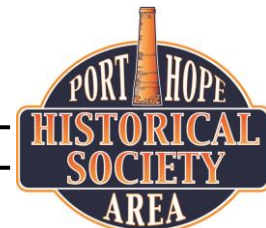
They are divided into five categories...DONATION AND ITEM INPUT; INTERIOR STRUCTURE AND THEME ROOM BUILD OUT; EXTERIOR STRUCTURE AND GROUNDS; SID HOLODNICK MEMORIAL GARDEN; and EVENTS.

No area was left untouched, and to think it was entirely accomplished by a group of dedicated men and women with a common goal. To make Port Hope and surrounding area a better place, with the Port Hope Area Historical Society and Train Depot the catalysts that are making it happen.



DONATION AND PRODUCT INPUT

Issued Dec 31, 2024



The year 2024 was nothing less than amazing with the amount and wide variety of donated items being dropped off almost daily. Boxes of old tools, books, school bells, furniture, appliances etc. Family Genealogy records, Family pictures, Artifacts from the old town buildings, etc. How about a fully restored Farmall Tractor and a real airplane.

Each and every item submitted for donation must first be approved for acceptance. Donation forms are signed by the donor, the item is recorded, cataloged, and ID tags or descriptive display cards are applied. Then the item/s are assigned to various display areas or theme rooms.

The effort required in registering donated items is extensive and continuous. Again, several volunteers have taken on this task. The society cannot thank them enough for their efforts. Following is a sampling of some donations and also the worker-bees.



Registering and cataloging several small items.



Original Theater Chairs from the Harbor Beach Community House



We have more in the truck!.



Vintage school Bells, Steamer trunks, even an old Pin Ball Machine needing some T,L,C.

DONATION AND PRODUCT INPUT

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Small items, regardless of size require the same cataloging process.



"Two of the Port Hope Girlz" Shuffling thru a typical day's work of paperwork. Notice the old yard sticks in the lower right. We take almost anything.

Update...Did you know that yard sticks cannot be sold in stores any longer?



Checking in an old pail and wooden table.



That's all there is? No more items?

INTERIOR STRUCTURE AND THEME ROOM BUILD OUT

Issued Dec 31, 2024



Anyone comparing the look of our Historical Society building today, verses four short years ago, or even last year, will see a world of difference. Back in early 2021, when the 86-year-old Hunter/Brinker lumber yard, closed for over twenty years, was so graciously deeded over to the society by the Hunter family, it needed an extensive amount of work. Inside it was a wonderful looking building architecturally. And a pleasure to take a walk through and see the Large storage racks of original lumber and supplies still intact. A beautiful building, but in much need of structural repairs and a whole lot of T.L.C.

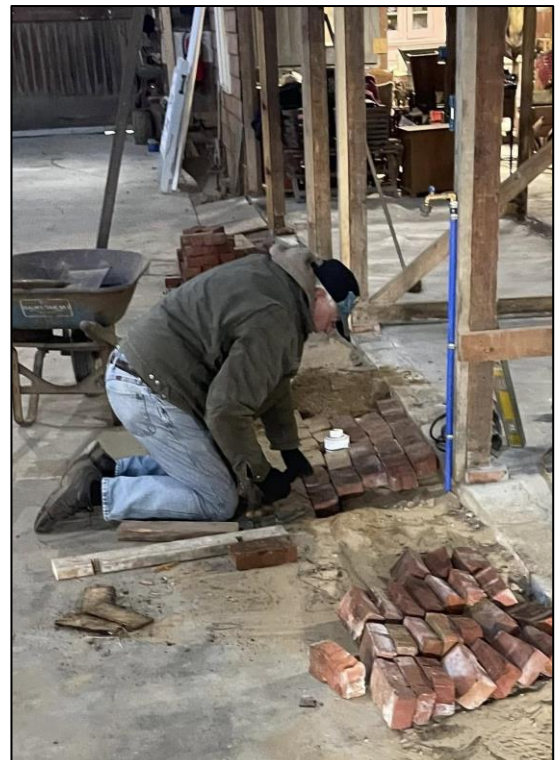
From the start of the society in 2021 we faced the monumental task of clearing out the congested areas of supplies, old shop equipment, vehicles, etc. Checking and improving the utilities and then to upgrade specific areas such as building out the main conference room and genealogy center. Extensive effort was required just to prepare for donated items and set up for open door events and visitor walk throughs.

An unbelievable amount of work accomplished, but yet, the year 2024 was probably our most productive year as a result of specific planning and an overwhelming amount of volunteers showing up ready and able to take on any, and all tasks.

Following is a sampling of the interior work accomplished in 2024.



Supporting structure also serving as theme room wall studding.



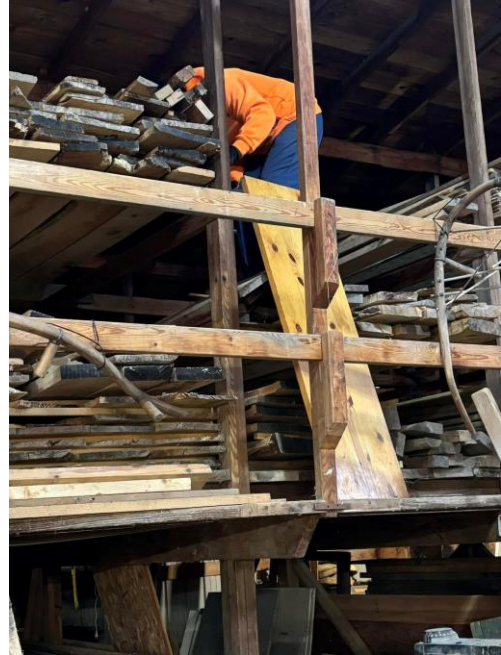
Laying bricks to bridge the gap between the alley way surface and theme room floors.

INTERIOR STRUCTURE AND THEME ROOM BUILD OUT

Issued Dec 31, 2024



*Dividing walls defining the beginning of the theme rooms
Note the completed filler bricks. (See previous photo).*



*A seemingly endless supply of original lumber to choose from
as needed. Also, on many occasions, supplies of donated
lumber and materials arrive at the most opportune times.*



*Design treatment differing between various theme
rooms makes for a more authentic look. This particular
theme room will be known as the "Air Port Hope Room"
as you can see a couple of propellers already mounted..*



*This particular entrance way will lead to three rooms
typical of an old farm house. A Parlor, kitchen and
bedroom.*

INTERIOR STRUCTURE AND THEME ROOM BUILD OUT

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Ongoing maintenance of existing equipment is also a part of the planned workload.. In this case, some counter repair to the famous "Darwin's Dogs & Drinks" café..



How about adding a window in the farm-house bedroom wall.



Two glass door entry to the "Port Hope Main Street" theme room, housing original photos of all the old Main Street buildings, along with corresponding present-day photos.

With still much to do, it is unbelievable that so much has been accomplished. This is a sampling of the ongoing structural changes and the theme room construction. Because of the quantity of donated items, we place them in their related theme room areas even though many of the rooms are yet to be finished. Following are more photos of some theme rooms as well as other general display items. Lots accomplished! Lots to do! We could use your help!



These are some of the things we dream about.

INTERIOR STRUCTURE AND THEME ROOM BUILD OUT

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Adding pictures on the wall of the "One Room School-house".



Mounting a vintage school bell outside of the "One Room School-House" .



Organizing the Kitchen and Parlor in the "Home Sweet Home: theme room.



Kitchen and Parlor items in the "Home Sweet Home: theme room.

INTERIOR STRUCTURE AND THEME ROOM BUILD OUT

Issued Dec 31, 2024



Setting up the "Laundry" theme room.



Individual signs designating the various theme rooms were mounted along the headers.



Airplane securely mounted with beams and cables.



Original items and history being set up in the Air-Port-Hope Theme room. .

With still much to do, it is unbelievable that so much has been accomplished. This is just a sampling of the on-going interior structural changes and the theme room construction. Even though work continued throughout the year, it was totally transparent at each and every event, everything was set up on display, organized and our museum presented itself well. Now, on to the Exterior Structure and Grounds.

EXTERIOR STRUCTURE AND GROUNDS

Issued Dec 31, 2024



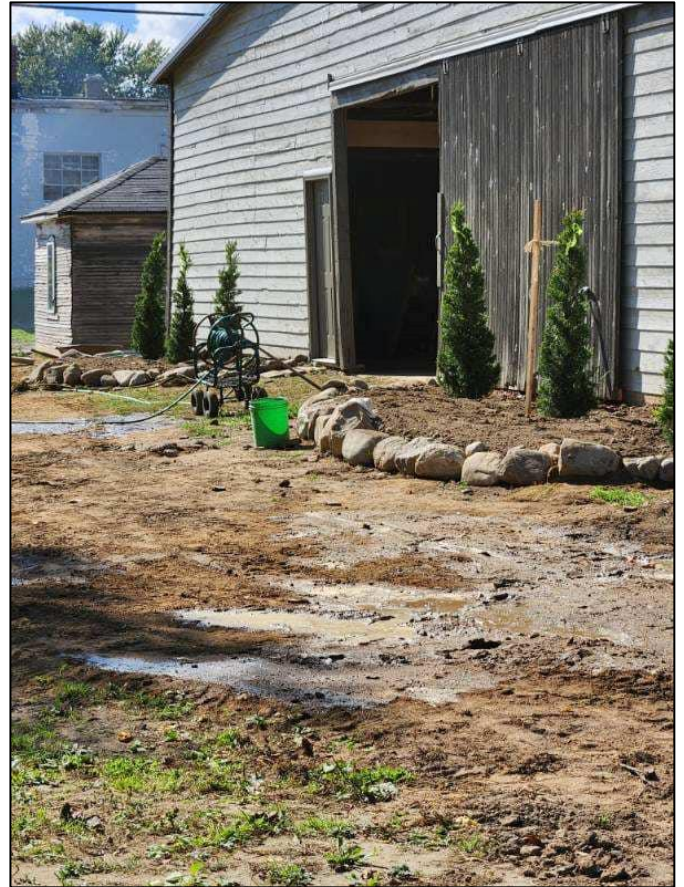
The last several pages outlined the work that was accomplished to the interior structure and Theme Room Build Out. This section covers the Exterior Section and Grounds.

No doubt you now have a better understanding of the efforts of our totally volunteer group of men and women. While not one person has the total skills needed to organize, track, wire, construct, lay concrete, climb ladders, etc, the combination of skills of many dedicated individuals has transformed an old lumber yard into one of the finest if not the best Historical Societies and museum in Huron County.

Now let's continue on with a sampling of the exterior work accomplished in 2024. Unfortunately we were missing some pictures such as the final installation of steel roofing and sealer completed this fall, or final pictures of the completed exterior painting, and no doubt, a few other areas. (We'll get them next time!)



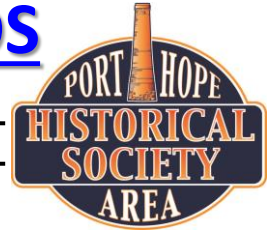
The storage garage adjacent to the lumberyard building was in need of roofing repairs. Further improvements to the overall building is in the planning stages.



Landscaping the south side of the building with completion on the list of to-do's. The look further enhances the Sid Holodnick Memorial Garden just off the south end of the building.

EXTERIOR STRUCTURE AND GROUNDS

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Some lower base board shoring up.



West side wall badly in need of new boards.



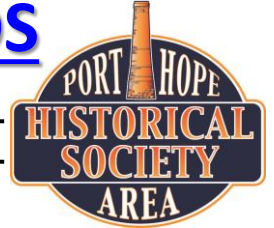
More side wall problems fixed without any complaints from the "BoyZ"



The old Brinker Lumber Truck, recently revived, seems to be acting up. "After you guys get down off your ladders, can you come and help figure out this "gosh-darned" starter motor?"

EXTERIOR STRUCTURE AND GROUNDS

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As the result of two generous grants from the Huron County Community Foundation, we were able to construct this fully covered overhang, including concrete, on the south-east side of the lumberyard. It will serve many useful purposes such as display, dining, entertainment etc. Thank you H.C.C.F.!



Framing joists being installed. Notice the snow on the ground? But yet the work continues. WOW! .



Framing continued, not unlike playing on monkey-bars.

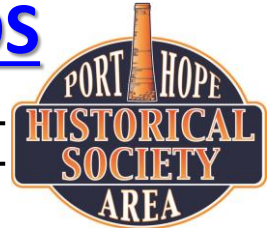


Roof boards and metal roofing installed. Structure nearly complete.



Concrete floor laid under the entire overhang.

EXTERIOR STRUCTURE AND GROUNDS



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The ability to undertake each and every project shown on these pages. takes a lot of money. Fortunately for us, each and every project has been totally funded from generous donations and contributions. Whether from individuals or families becoming Yearly, Life, or Founding Members, or by individual donations from visitors and friends, we are forever grateful.

The following pictures are self explanatory. The Front Drive was sorely in need of replacement. Work started in late September and shortly thereafter, we had a beautiful entrance to the lumberyard.



Breaking up and removing the old concrete.



Framing, Leveling, sand filling, laying out the reinforcing rods, all complex stuff, and most likely done by the same volunteers that did the roof and wired the building.



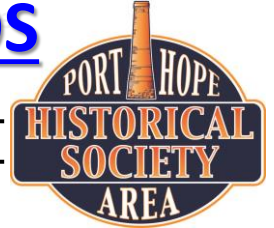
The concrete is poured, shoveled pushed and leveled.



Recently poured drive and portions of the sidewalk. Now don't be scratching your initials in there!

EXTERIOR STRUCTURE AND GROUNDS

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The awareness of a County program covering fifty percent costs for sidewalk installation, came at a perfect time with the recent completion of the front drive approach to the lumberyard door. Upon the counties approval, we laid a sidewalk running east from the lumberyard to the Train Depot. This has obvious benefits in better connecting the Lumberyard with the Train Depot,



With upfront preparation complete, the cement is being poured.



Final leveling and smoothing and we're nearly complete.

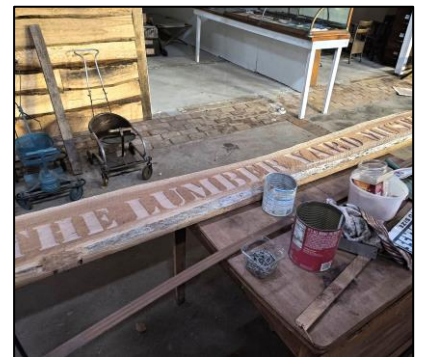
ADDITIONAL EXTERIOR



The first "Barn Quilt" mounted on the east wall of the building and the start of a "Barn Quilt" movement.

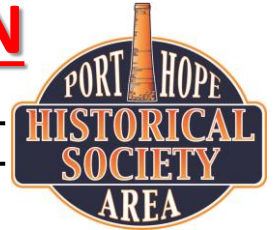


A vintage Port Hope sign, cleaned up and mounted on the wall under the overhang.



The future live edge wood plank sign to be hung over the large door of the Lumberyard. "the Lumberyard Museum"

SID HOLODNICK MEMORIAL GARDEN



Issued Dec 31, 2024

The Sid Holodnick Memorial Garden as most of us know, was initiated last year as a memorial to Sid Holodnick, one of our most important founding members. The Society would not be where it is today without Sid's involvement and guidance.

By the fall of 2023, the garden was starting to take shape. However, in 2024, much progress has taken place. It has become a beautiful serene place to sit, ponder and relax the mind.



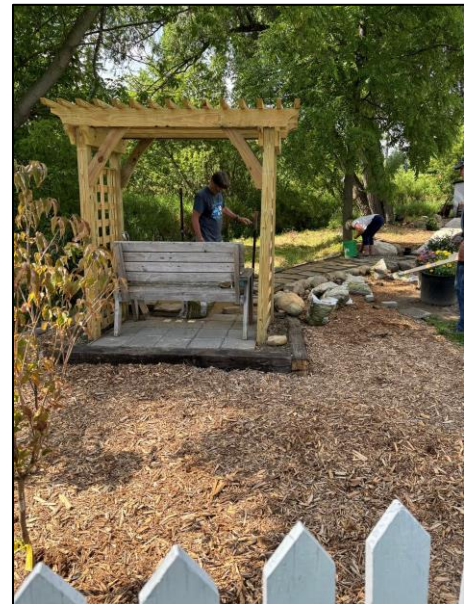
Checking out the flowers and making the garden a beautiful place.



Weeding, cleaning up the walks and tending to the garden.

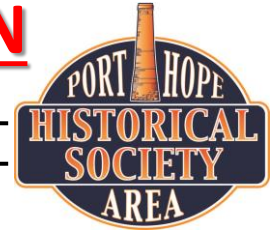


Preparing to drop a recently constructed pergola in place.



Note the wooden bench under the new pergola. This bench was original constructed by Sid Holodnick himself. A perfect setting.

SID HOLODNICK MEMORIAL GARDEN

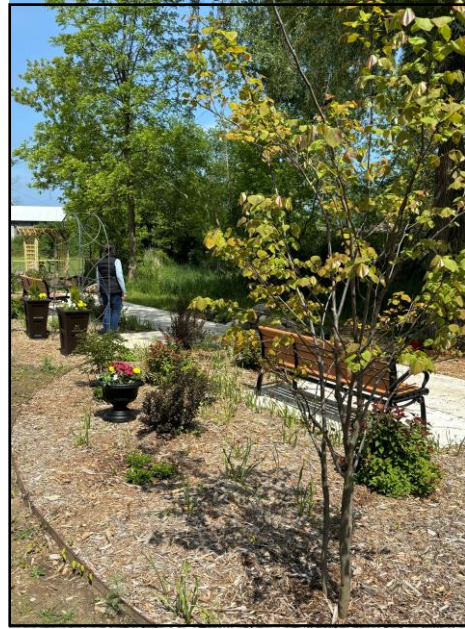


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A few dedicated individuals have really stepped up in the development and maintenance of the garden. As evidenced by the pictures, it is a beautiful setting and well worth taking a bit of time to do a bit of meditating.



The finished walkway to the pergola and sid's hand crafted bench.



A beautiful garden in a perfect setting.



"In Memory of Sid Holodnick".



Taking a bit of time to meditate and appreciate life.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS



Issued Dec 31, 2024

In our first three years as a society, most of our efforts were focused on getting the word out, renovating the building, collecting donated items, restoring buggies & such. It takes a while to build up a crew of volunteers (now known as the Port Hope Boyz and Girlz). We were very fortunate in that we grew very quickly. And on the holiday weekends we would work up to the last minute, and then push all of the tools, lumber, ladders aside, sweep up all the sawdust, and make the place presentable to open for viewing. We had success. Our first year, we were open only for the 4th of July and ABC day. We have certainly grown since then. In 2024 we held eight events, (MEMORIAL DAY, FATHER'S DAY, 4TH OF JULY WEEKEND, ABC DAY, LABOR DAY, HOSTED THIRD ANNUAL HCFF MTG, HURON COUNTY MUSEUM WEEKEND, & HALLOWEEN. We also opened for special requests by groups or out of town visitors. All were welcome. Our goal is to increase the number of "open weekends", but we are not quite ready, mainly due the number of Docents required.

The following pictures with captions represent various events throughout the year.

HOLIDAY, ABC & MISC EVENTS



Our outdoor flea market and car show have always been a success.



"Open for business"



The old roadster is back! What a beauty!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS



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HOLIDAY, ABC & MISC EVENTS



"Darwin's Dogs & Drinks". Ready for action!



Sweet music from under the overhang.



The Museum always drew nice crowds at each event.



Large variety of Logo merchandise available in the alleyway.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS



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HOLIDAY, ABC & MISC EVENTS



Little girls interested in the "Home Sweet Home" theme room.



Playing the popular "Find it game" while searching for items in the diorama



Checking out a very unusual wash machine in the Laundry Room.



The kitchen pantry has so much to see.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS



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HOLIDAY, ABC & MISC EVENTS



Ringin the bell at the "One Room Schoolhouse".



Visitors at the entry to the "Dairy" theme room.

SCHOOL DAYS



This group of home-schoolers from the Hope Activity Center came by one day and saw a door open.. Well, who was Darwin to say no to a gang of curious kids? He gave them a private tour of the museum. From the photo, it looks like they appreciated what the Port Hope Area Historical Society is all about.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS



Issued Dec 31, 2024

HOSTING THE H.C.C.F.

Port Hope gave a warm welcome on Sep. 12th to the Huron County Community Foundation. It celebrated its 30th anniversary at the Lumberyard Museum. Hors d'oeuvres and one-of-a-kind desserts were served. Guests toured the nearby train depot and caboose. They also took a walk through the Sid Holodnick Memorial Garden.



A large crowd celebrating their 30th Anniversary.



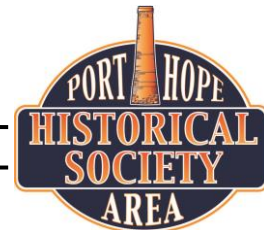
The overhang while still not totally complete, worked out perfectly.



Yum-Yum, eat um up!.

The event was held under the Lumberyard's new overhang and venue site and the weather couldn't have been better.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS



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HALLOWEEN

This was our first Halloween opening and it turned to be a fun evening . We greeted several children in cute little outfits and some very scary ones.



Here come the trick or treaters.



Nice outfit, you get two pieces of candy



Looks like two, gun slingers. Did they ride in on a Holstein?



Love that curly blue hair!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS



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CHRISTMAS

Friends of the Depot and the Port Hope Historical Society members held their annual Christmas potluck on Dec 7th at the village fire hall. A good time was had by all.



A great turn out and all enjoyed the great potluck offerings.



*Seems to be a lot of drinking going on?? Hmmm.
They say It's just ginger ale.*



A couple of the "Port hope Girlz" celebrating the years accomplishments.



Stop! Are you pouring ketchup on that desert?

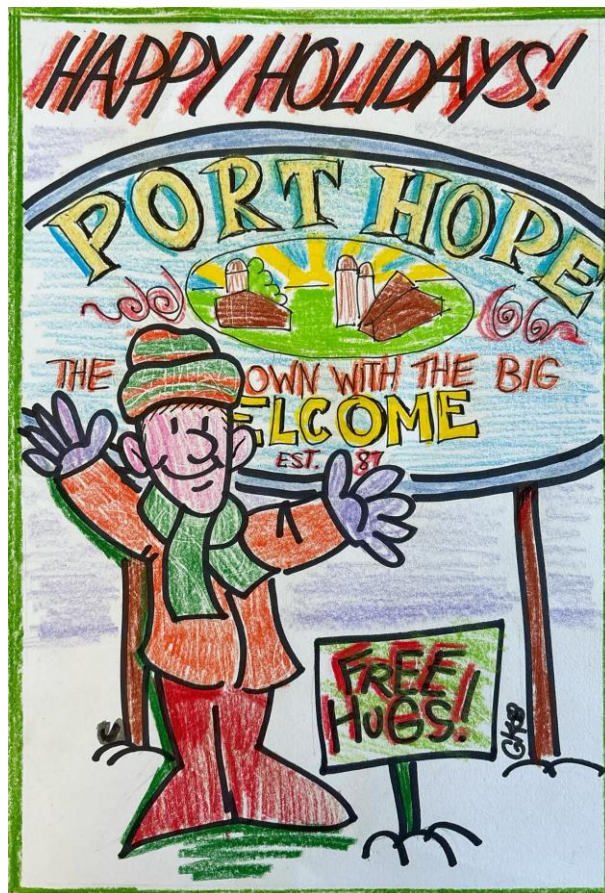
We filled the chairs, ate two much, enjoyed talking with our friends, and a good time was had by all..

Calendar of upcoming events

- 2025 -

(Tentative dates and times)

- Board Mtgs: 2nd Tue of each mo. Apr thru Nov
- Memorial Day weekend: May 24, 25
- Father's Day weekend: June 14
- Open Day: Saturday, Jul 28, 1-4 pm
- Fourth of July weekend: July 4, 5, 6
- Open Day: Saturday, July 26, 1-4 pm
- Memory Lunches: T.B.D.
- ABC Day: Saturday, Aug. 16
- Labor Day weekend: Aug. 30, 31
- Open day: Saturday, Sep. 13, 1-4 pm
- Museum weekend: Sep. 27, 28
- Cider and doughnuts Saturday, Oct. 18, 1-4pm



"GARTHTOONS" brought to you by Garth Kriewall

Interested in becoming a member of the society? Wanting to make a donation? Please fill out and mail the form below.

Membership / Contribution Form

Please fill out this form and mail with your check to:
P.H.A.H.S.
P.O. Box 133
Port Hope MI, 48468



Port Hope Area Historical Society
8016 Portland Ave.
Port Hope MI, 48468
Questions: 989-428-4831

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Spouse First Name _____ Last Name _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Spouse Phone _____ Email Address _____

Yearly Membership: Single _____ (\$25.00) **Family** _____ (\$40.00)
January 1 thru December 31 (must be renewed each calendar year by May 15)

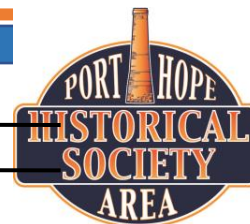
Life Member _____ (\$500) **Founders/Life Member** _____ (\$1,000.00)

All members will receive the quarterly newsletter and member names listed periodically in the newsletter. Founders & Life Members will have a personalized name plaque displayed on the membership tree at the Historical Center.

This section is for a contribution that may be made with or without a membership.

I would like to support the Port Hope Area Historical Society to further its development and wish to make a contribution in the amount of \$ _____ (Make check payable to: "Port Hope Area Historical Society".)
(Contributions to the PHAHS, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines.)

Issued Dec 31, 2024



It has been a good year

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

As we step out of 2024 and into 2025, the Port Hope Area Historical Society hopes that all had a blessed Christmas, and we wish everyone a prosperous and healthy New Year!

And Santa Claus has a few words to say...

