

2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YEADON BOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

By Ordinance 2015-1362, Yeadon Borough Council established the Yeadon Borough Historical Commission (YBHC). Yeadon Borough Council determined that it was in the best interest of the health, safety and general welfare of the residents and businesses of Yeadon Borough to establish the Yeadon Borough Historical Commission, and thereby encourage appreciation for Yeadon Borough's rich history while creating a means to honor and preserve it.

In accordance with the Ordinance, the Yeadon Borough Historical Commission is to be comprised of seven (7) members. In October 2015, public notice of the YBHC was posted on the Borough's website and anyone wishing to be a member of the Commission was advised to submit a resume supporting their qualifications for the position. All resumes received by the Borough Secretary were submitted for review by Borough Council. This process resulted in the following persons being selected and appointed as the members: Dolores Jones Butler, Kelli Cave, Donald Cave, Alvin Holm, William Mellix, Donna Samuel and Judson Sumbler. Alvin Holm was appointed by Yeadon Borough Council as the Chairperson.

The first meeting of the Yeadon Borough Historical Commission was held in April 2016 with William Mellix then agreeing to serve as Vice Chairperson, and Kelli Cave as Secretary. The Ordinance dictates that the Commission shall meet at a minimum quarterly. However, YBHC has been holding monthly meetings to discuss and determine what is needed to fulfill its duties as established in the Ordinance. The monthly meetings have allowed YBHC to establish goals and begin the necessary process for the accomplishment of same.

Members of YBHC conducted research and were able to access historical maps stored at Yeadon Borough Hall, as well as a larger quantity of historical materials and memorabilia archived by the Yeadon Public Library. The Commission, with the support of the Borough's public relations representative, to attain current photos of some of the historical sites in Yeadon Borough. Informed discussions at meetings of the YBHC supported the fact that Yeadon Borough has a strong documented and undocumented historical significance, and that its history should be preserved and made a part of public knowledge.

With this goal in mind, the Yeadon Borough Historical Commission spent several months planning a Kick-off Reception that was held at the Yeadon Public Library on October 22, 2016. The Reception was hosted by YBHC in collaboration with Yeadon Borough Council and Yeadon Public Library; in partnership with the Office of Senator Anthony H. Williams; and was sponsored by Sweet Home Healthcare. The event, attended by both current and former residents of the Yeadon community, was an opportunity for the YBHC to present its mission, to discuss future plans and to display some historical Borough maps, pictures and memorabilia. Recognition was given to more than 25 known residents who have lived in Yeadon for more than 50 years. Oral history interviews and residence survey data, to be used as part of a public relations campaign, were collected at the event.

Below is a partial list of the goals set by the Yeadon Borough Historical Commission for 2017:

- 1) To promote interest in Yeadon's history by establishing a display of materials shared at the Kick-off Reception, possibly the Yeadon Public Library.
- 2) To establish an online presence for the Yeadon Borough Historical Commission.
- 3) To identify and conduct oral history interviews with more long term residents.
- 4) To update existing inventory of historic properties and sites.
- 5) To obtain markers for historic buildings or sites.
- 6) To identify any properties that may be eligible for historic certification.
- 7) To develop a public relations campaign to generate more interest in Yeadon's history and the work of the Yeadon Borough Historical Commission; this will include more public events such as the reception held in October 2016.

Lastly, the Yeadon Borough Historical Commission has been approached by Arcadia Publishing regarding the possibility of including Yeadon Borough in their *Images of America* series. This project is being considered for 2018.

Respectfully submitted on December 5, 2016 by: Dolores Jones Butler, Kelli Cave, Donald Cave, Alvin Holm, William Mellix, Donna Samuel and Judson Sumbler.