Museum News During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This week is National Volunteer Week!! Normally we would be having a special luncheon for our wonderful volunteers this week, but we have had to make adjustments. We have been sharing quotes and photos from our volunteers all week on social media, some of which can be found here in this newsletter. Staff made thank you videos which can be found in the links listed to the left. We have also emailed and called volunteers to give thanks.

We are extremely grateful for the over 100 volunteers that help with all aspects of the Niagara Historical Society and Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum operations. Without you, we would not be the strong community organization that we are today! THANK YOU!

Over the last year, a team of volunteers has been working hard on plans for Niagara Polo. Unfortunately, we have decided to reschedule the event until September 11, 2021 in light of the current COVID-19 situation. We hope you will all be ready to help make this fundraiser a huge success next year!

THIS WEEK’S FUN LINKS:

- Things Found in the Collection Quiz
- Video 1: Garden & Tour Volunteers
- Video 2: Event Volunteers
- Video 3: Collections Volunteers
- Video 4: Cemetery Volunteers

Gift Shop: Military Catalogue

Call us to order by phone and we will deliver locally!

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follow us on social media @NOTLMuseum
Packing Apples

This coloured view of Apple Packing at Niagara-on-the-Lake is on a postcard mailed in 1913 from Dundalk, Ontario. So why would someone in Dundalk send this NOTL card in October 1913? Well, it’s quite possible that it was picked up by a summer trainee at the Camp here in town.

Published by St. John Ferguson and Connolly it’s a contrast to the images of vineyards that one would expect to see today. And it’s not a peach crop that one might have expected as the feature some 50 years ago. We enlarged the image and even though it does not have the resolution of a photograph, we can still make out that the barrels are stenciled as ‘Canadian Apples’ with the attribution to ‘F.H. Baker, Toronto, Ont. XI’.

The description of ‘Canadian’ suggests that the barrels might have been for export and would have been shipped on the Cayuga or some other Lake Boat to Toronto and thence possibly to the U.K. We recall local resident David Greaves’ recent reminiscences to us of peaches being taken to the dock to be loaded on to the Cayuga for shipment to Toronto in a later era.

The message is the sort of thing that people might have said in the pre-telephone and pre-e-mail era: Dundalk, Ont - Dear Pappa, Just a card to let you know we are all well & trust you are same. I got your letter with content also well. We will start on 14 if nothing happens. Will write later.

One hundred and seven years later, we can’t begin to guess what they are going to start ‘on 14 if nothing happens’. Apple picking in Dundalk? We will never know. Postcards can tell us a story - but sometimes only part of it!

Judith Sayers (jasayers@saybuck.com) has a large collection of postcards of Niagara Camp and Niagara-on-the-Lake which will be shared with you in this series.
215TH BATTALION

Last week’s postcard article from John Sayers had yet another historian intrigued. This time Richard Merritt came forward with a bit more information about the photo of the 215th Battalion at Niagara Camp. John had much difficulty reading the date on the card and thought it was 1911. Richard corrected that since the 215th Battalion CEF was not raised until 1916. The battalion, mostly recruited in Haldimand, Brant and Norfolk Counties, trained both at Niagara Camp in the summer-fall, 1916 (when this photo was probably taken) and then wintered in Brantford before being sent to England in April 1917. Richard suspects there is much more information on this battalion at the Brant County Museum and Brantford Public Library.

NEW EXHIBIT ON GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE

Our newest virtual exhibit is up on Google Arts & Culture! Check out the history of Chautauqua by clicking on the link below:

Virtual Exhibit: Chautauqua
WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

During the week of April 19-25, we will be saying a big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers on social media!

#volunteerappreciationweek2020

The fundraisers are always in need of volunteers and when the call goes out so many of us get involved. It's always when you find out how much volunteers are appreciated because with you/us there wouldn't be such successful events.

I've been volunteering at the Museum for about 10 years now and I can't tell you how much fun it has been. When I moved to the area I wanted to get involved and meet new people, so I answered an ad in the local paper and 10 years later, I'm still there - they can't get rid of me. When people ask how I know so much about Niagara-on-the-Lake (not really - lol) I tell them it's from volunteering at the Museum.

I volunteer with the Museum because I have always been interested in history and antique objects. Growing up in Niagara-on-the-Lake probably contributed to this, especially my interest in local history. Being a Collections Volunteer is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience with the work of the Museum and contribute to preserving our history for future generations. It's also a lot of fun working with the staff and other volunteers.

MARNIE TAYLOR

After serving briefly on the board of the museum, I heard about the Collections Management Committee, led at that time by Richard Taylor, and I asked if I could join the committee. As an avid book collector and antique collector, I have enjoyed participating in a small way in building the museum's collection. It was also a wonderful way to work every Monday morning with individuals like Richard, Fred, and now Dale, Sue, and Marnie, as well as dedicated (and young!) staff members.

—BOB KNIGHT

First of all, volunteering reminds me of my parents who were so generous with their time throughout their lives and set a wonderful example. For me, it is an opportunity to meet new people and hopefully help in some small way. In retirement, it is a terrific opportunity to stay engaged and contribute back to the community. It doesn’t matter if it is a once-off or ongoing commitment. All makes me happy.