As more businesses begin to reopen, we are given some hope of a return to the things we are all missing so much. Museums are part of stage 2 of reopening, although Niagara is not yet permitted to move into stage 2. Still, we have begun some preparations, including the development of a reopening plan, changes to the entrance area to protect staff and visitors, and the procurement of PPE and cleaning supplies.

Although opening to the public seems to be just around the corner, it will still be some time until we can host large groups for programs and events. So, we are planning for the continuation of our online presentations through the summer as well as some additional online programming.

In July, we will be switching the timing of our Thursday programming so that it doesn't interfere as much with your ability to enjoy the afternoon outside. Stay tuned for the July line-up coming next week.

if there are any presentations you would like to see from us or topics you are interested in, please feel free to contact us with your ideas!

follow us on social media @NOTLMuseum
Many charities, like us, have been struggling to generate revenue during this time. Although there are some government programs available for us this year, we do not know what the next six months to a year will bring for the cultural sector. Help to ensure we are here to continue serving the community after the pandemic with a donation during the Great Canadian Giving Challenge.

COVID-19 has also greatly impacted the progress of our capital campaign. Without the ability to meet with potential donors and hold large fundraising events, we have had to put on hold many of our fundraising efforts.

For every dollar donated to us in the month of June on CanadaHelps, we will be entered to win $20,000 for our charity. To access our CanadaHelps page, just click the image above.

Help us win the Great Canadian Giving Challenge!
UPCOMING WEBINARS

All presentations start at 2pm and require online registration:

June 18 | Michael Clark
Famous & Infamous: Conn Smythe
REGISTER HERE

June 25 | Sarah Kaufman
Memorial Hall: Niagara’s own Cabinet of Curiosities
REGISTER HERE

Recordings will be emailed to all members following each presentation

OBITUARY: DAVID AURANDT

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of past Board member David Aurandt on June 4, 2020. David served on the Board of the Niagara Historical Society in 2015/16 and presented at the Museum as part of our 2019 lecture series, as well as being a regular presenter for the Famous & Infamous program.

David was Director/Curator at RiverBrink from May 2012 through August 2015 and had an impressive career in art museums. His knowledge of and passion for Canadian art and his warm presence will be greatly missed in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

FATHER’S DAY SELECTIONS FROM THE GIFT SHOP

We have now added all of our books to our online shop! Check out the great selection of Niagara-on-the-Lake history, military and other books for Dad. We also have great gift ideas such as some of the items below. Visit NOTLMUSEUMSHOP.SQUARE.SITE to purchase your father's day gift today. Pick up and delivery available.
JUNE IS INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH!

Some resources for Indigenous History Month:

NOTL Museum virtual exhibit on the Attawandaron

Niagara Falls History Museum's new virtual exhibit: Empathic Traditions

Historica Canada interview with Rick Hill, who talks about the complexities of Haudenosaunee territory, wampum belt teachings, and his work to repatriate material culture to his community.

Landscape of Nations Memorial virtual tour

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOTL MUSEUM COLLECTION

ABOVE: This interesting item from the 1911 Catalogue (#4235) is a prayer book and gospel of St. Mark translated into Mohawk by Chief Brant in 1787. During colonization European religion brought change to Indigenous culture. In some communities, there was hybridized religion, and in others, European religion replaced traditional practices. Today this book helps us to understand the complex impacts of colonization.

LEFT: This is an Indenture between William Claus and the Six Nations on the Grand River for Land in County of Haldimand District of Niagara, Province of Upper Canada. This document is #3934 in the 1911 Catalogue. Click HERE to read a transcript:
Painting the Cayuga's Picture

Over several years my wife, Judith, accumulated a few wonderful cards of the interiors of the Great Lakes steamer, Cayuga. It serviced the Niagara region with runs from Toronto over a number of decades, with her Maiden Voyage reportedly in 1907, and the end of her distinguished career in the late 1950s. By that time vacationers probably found it easier to get to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Port Dalhousie, or Queenston by car on the Queen Elizabeth Way than it was to go by boat - and you would have a car to explore the area.

Her first find, the Promenade Deck, was followed by the Ladies Cabin, which was clearly part of a set. The next card unlocked one of the group; The Entrance Hall had a publisher number which showed a gap, so there were even more images.

These were followed in subsequent years by two more members of the Cayuga family of images which filled in the numeric gap - the Dining Room and the Smoking Room. So far that meant a set of at least 5 cards. But maybe it was 8. Or 10? How many more images of her interior had been produced? Maybe there was an image of her engine room. Or the captain on her bridge. Imagine the experience of being lost in a forest and you can get a good idea of the feeling. Finally, last year, Judith found a card with a composite picture of all 5 images - proving there were 6 cards in the set.

The Ladies Cabin and the Smoking Room provided stereotypical images of society of the era. The Ladies Cabin was light and airy, with charming, delicate wicker furniture. Other than the smoke billowing from her smokestack and the absence of air conditioning on a warm day, a delicate, properly-dressed lady travelling from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Toronto - or vice versa - would have found the room very much to her liking. If your memory goes back to the vintage clothing exhibit that was mounted by the Museum in 2019 you should be able to picture that sort of attire.

If the stereotype were maintained, the women would discuss child rearing, cooking, servants (if they had any), sewing - or perhaps they just read a contemporary book. They were NOT permitted to enter the Smoking Room. The Smoking Room was an entirely different design story. It was for men only, and whether the vessel was a Great Lakes steamer or a big ocean liner, the Smoking Room featured dark décor, with solid wood furniture and trim, and all the atmosphere of a gentleman’s club on shore - with no women allowed.

Men congregated here allegedly to discuss politics, financial developments, the local or national economy, or other matters that they supposedly deemed important. It was very much a man’s world whether you were in any country of the world or just on a lake steamer that serviced Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Postcards such as these - attributed to 1907 - and the ones in the large collection at the Museum help to document where we have come from, and in many cases the progress that we have made.

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.