HELLO!

Over the past several weeks, we have been working on a plan for re-opening the Museum and putting in place safety measures for staff, volunteers and visitors.

On July 7th, we are opening for the first week to members only. This will give our members a chance to come in and renew memberships, shop in the gift shop and see the quilt exhibition. This exhibit will remain on display for the summer since it was cut short. "All Along the Waterfront" has been rescheduled for next spring.

On July 14th, we will open the site to the public. We have worked on signage throughout the Museum to encourage physical distancing and no touching, there are directional arrows and stickers on the floor to guide visitors on where to stand and how to move through the space, there are new hand sanitizers stations throughout, the reception desk has glass and plexiglass coverage, and staff will be cleaning high touch areas and bathrooms throughout the day. Only 10 visitors will be allowed to visit at one time.

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UPCOMING WEBINARS

All presentations start at 4 pm and require online registration:

July 2 | Rick Meloen - The History of the Chautauqua Neighbourhood in Niagara-on-the-Lake
REGISTER HERE

July 9 | Ted Rumble - Ordnance Boundary Stones of Niagara-on-The-Lake
REGISTER HERE

July 16 | Shawna Butts - Some Women in Niagara-on-the-Lake’s History
REGISTER HERE

July 23 | David Hemmings - Was your grandmother a British Home Child?
REGISTER HERE

July 30 | Sarah Kaufman - Ask the Curator (submit your questions to us ahead of time!)
REGISTER HERE

Recordings will be emailed to all members following each presentation

In order to allow for extra cleaning and limit potential exposure, we will be operating with limited hours until the province enters into a new stage. For now, we will be open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

We will also begin our weekend walking tours on July 11th with a limited group size and a new route that avoids the King/Queen Street area of Town. Participants on walking tours will be asked to answer a health questionnaire before they can attend a tour.

Masks are highly encouraged for visitors and we will have some for sale. Staff and volunteers will be equipped with masks for when physical distancing measures cannot be maintained. All transactions will be through credit or debit with no cash transactions accepted.

We know it will take some adjustments but are committed to ensuring everyone at the Museum stays safe and healthy. We look forward to welcoming you back soon!!

2 SPOTS LEFT FOR KID CURATORS CAMP

Although we have cancelled our July camp for this year, we are going ahead with summer camp for one week in August. Staff have been closely monitoring all provincial and regional guidelines for camp. We have reduced the number of campers, introduced cleaning procedures and physical distancing measures, and will be making every effort to make camp a safe experience for the children and staff. There are still 2 spots left for August 10-14. Kid Curators Camp is for ages 6 to 12 and the cost is $125 for the week (10 am - 4 pm, Mon-Fri). Contact us if you have a child or grandchild interested in learning about the history of the waterfront this summer!
Mystery Niagara Nurses

One of the most fascinating – and challenging - cards in my wife Judith’s collection is this photograph of five First War era nurses. She got this card a while ago, possibly from Ron Workman, a prominent regional postcard dealer in St. Catharines.

Five nurses - but only one name. In ink, on the back, is the caption ‘Edith with the sisters and nuns she works with in “D 1 bond” [I think the world needs a resource to translate illegible writing!]. At the foot of the card on the back is the date August 1916.

All those notes are in ink - the kind that used to be in fountain pens and came in an inkwell. They are ‘period’ and if they were in ball point one might have been suspicious about their authenticity. But these are authentic.

In pencil on the back is the apparently later notation, “St. Davids Ontario. Top left is Flossie Pendergast”. So who is Flossie Pendergast? Well, David Greaves, a local resident passionate about the Town’s history, remembers that at one time she was one of the local Pendergast family that lived in St. Davids, and reportedly later on Flossie ran the General Store in Virgil, Ontario. But who are Edith and Flossie’s other workmates in the photo?

What I think many photograph collectors are waiting for is Facial Recognition Software, so that someone that has a massive database of photos (like Ancestry) could make them ‘searchable’ (for a fee, obviously!). If we had a Facial Recognition database of Nursing graduates in Ontario prior to 1916 we might be able to get one or more matches. Even facial recognition of known Niagara Region residents of the era might hit a lucky match.

In the absence of further resources we know nothing more about these women. Flossie is no longer with us to tell us - nor is Edith or anyone that might have benefited from their care, probably at Niagara Camp, over a hundred years ago. But Judith will keep looking for clues as her quest continues.

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.

Thanks to our volunteer gardeners!

We want to send a huge thank you to our gardening volunteers who have kept the museum grounds looking beautiful through spring, even while we are closed. Thanks to our gardening chair David Livett and his team including Danny Lummiss, Ken Schander, and Sonia & Fred Johnson for all their hard work! Our gardening team includes others that help with weeding, watering and upkeep throughout the summer and fall. If you are interested in joining our gardening team, please contact us!
help us win...

THE GREAT CANADIAN GIVING CHALLENGE

In June, every $1 you donate to us through CanadaHelps gives us a chance to win $20,000!

Click to support the Niagara Historical Society's Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum at:

CanadaHelps.org

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!