HELLO!

Last week we hosted our first webinar online and it worked out quite well! We are happy to be able to engage with members and history fans digitally during this time and hope that you try out some of our upcoming talks and presentations. We have something scheduled every Thursday at 2 pm for the months of May and June. The full schedule can be found in this newsletter.

If closure continues throughout the summer, we will plan more online programming to keep you entertained. If there is something in particular you are interested in, please let us know and we will do our best to make it happen!

This week was #MuseumWeek on social media so we hope you have been having fun following all of the hashtags. There are still a few days left, so feel free to post your own photos with hashtags to participate.

Thursday: #MuseumMomentsMW
Friday: #climateMW
Saturday: #technologyMW
Sunday: #dreamsMW

Staff emails:
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THIS WEEK’S FUN LINKS:

Locust Hall, St. Davids Video
St. Andrew’s Church Quiz
Artefact Spotlight: "T" Sign
Spanish Flu Recording

Digital jigsaw puzzles made from images at Brock Library’s Special Collections

follow us on social media @NOTLMuseum
UPCOMING WEBINARS

All presentations start at 2pm and require online registration:

May 21 | Suzanne Hebert
Famous & Infamous: The Medicis
REGISTER HERE

May 28 | Ted Rumble
Famous & Infamous: Dusko Popov
REGISTER HERE

June 4 | David Hemmings
Doing Family History in COVID Days

June 11 | Linda Fritz
Queenston: The Inland Port

June 18 | Michael Clark
Famous & Infamous: Conn Smythe

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

Recordings will be emailed to all members following each presentation.

We are looking for some input on our reopening procedures. Please click the link below to give us your feedback.
SURVEY

Our Museum Shop is now online! Purchase items, renew memberships and make donations all on one site. More inventory being added daily. Click below:
notlmuseumshop.square.site

THE TINY MUSEUM IS READY!

Our Tiny Museum is finally complete! Thanks to generous funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and private donations from Faith & David Bell as well as an anonymous donor, we now have a Tiny Museum to take out into the community.

What started as an idea for a bigger Christmas Parade float, turned into an outreach concept developed by Faith Bell with assistance from Museum staff. As this project has grown, the need for a truck to tow the Tiny Museum became evident and this could not have been possible without OTF funding.

We now have a structure on wheels which includes built-in cases to display artefacts. Over the next year we will be developing a series of displays and programming to complement community events and school curriculum.

Special thanks goes to Faith Bell who has supported this project all the way through and to the Drew Chapman Carpentry team for their craftsmanship in completing the work.

We hope to roll out the Tiny Museum at community events and schools as soon as it is safe to do so.
IT'S IN THE CARDS
A SERIES BY JOHN G. SAYERS

St. Davids Churches

Postcards differ in many ways from other historical ephemera. You can find a card from your hometown almost anywhere on the planet, because people sent cards to their relatives and friends. And the recipients collected those cards, and in most cases kept them for many decades.

The postcard craze was at its height in 1910 when this card, with images of the Methodist Church and its Parsonage, and the Presbyterian Church and its Manse in St. Davids, was sent to Miss M. Bishop (as I decipher the name) at Lower Hill Farm near Battle.

This apparently was not sent by a tourist, because the regret that "I am very sorry not to have sent a card for your birthday, but I am keeping very busy." Cousins perhaps? Then, there is a report to the recipient that "Edie had a good time on her birthday. She had 6 little girls in to spend the evening." [Does that sound familiar to all you parents?]

The card was published by ‘Review Printery, Niagara Falls, Canada’. That sounds like ‘The Review’, Frank H. Leslie’s paper that he bought in 1904. Collectors are more accustomed to seeing a postcard attribution to F.H. Leslie & Company, apparently a sister company, which produced many, many local Niagara and Niagara Camp postcards.

So how did this card, mailed to England, get into our hands? It was purchased by a long-time Toronto postcard collector at the big York Postcard Show in England last year. Bob, the collector, bought it for a modest amount (after all, hardly anyone in the U.K. would collect Niagara-on-the-Lake) and hoped that it would find a welcome home back here in NOTL. It has.

And if you’re a keen genealogist you might want to check it out at the Museum, where it is headed as soon as this COVID-19 paralysis comes to an end! If you can’t wait, drop us a note and we’ll send you a high-res scan of the back, because you might do a better job of deciphering the recipient’s name than I did.

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.