Museum News During the COVID-19 Pandemic

HELLO!

We have been working hard to keep in contact with our members and friends who use email and social media regularly during our closure. However, there are members who do not use these digital platforms often or some not at all. Last week, Visitor & Member Services Coordinator, Babs Worthy, set out to deliver some newsletters to these people to make sure they were receiving Museum communications and to further check in with the Society’s membership. Babs was delighted to be greeted by the smiling faces of people who were excited to just chat with her (from a distance, of course)! She snapped a photo of this beautiful and enormous magnolia tree in Queenston on one of these member visits (pictured left).

If you are feeling isolated and need to talk, or you are in need of any deliveries, please do not hesitate to contact Museum staff. We are here to support our members and the community in any way we can! Call us at 905-468-3912 or send us an email.

May 7, 2020

THIS WEEK’S FUN LINKS:

"Our Story" Exhibit Video
War of 1812 Quiz
Artefact Spotlight: Servos
Indian Department Coat

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follow us on social media @NOTLMuseum
THIS MONTH'S WEBINARS

All presentations start at 2pm and require online registration:

May 14 | Tony Chisholm
Marathon Swimmers on Lake Ontario [REGISTER HERE]

May 21 | Suzanne Hebert
Famous & Infamous: The Medicis

May 28 | Ted Rumble
Famous & Infamous: Dusko Popov

More presentations will be announced next week for the month of June.

Links to register for the May 21st and May 28th presentations will come in a separate email.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS: STREETS OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
Tennis Anyone?

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a keen tennis town, with a very active group of players. But that has always been the case, and postcards of the early 1900s record players on the courts at the Queen’s Royal Hotel. Alas, the hotel and its tennis courts are gone, and the only remaining reminder of the feature is the pergola at Queen’s Royal Park.

The photographic postcard pictured came from the hands of a dealer who had purchased a collection of early postcards from a local estate. It’s a rare photo image and is captioned to record the event – May Sutton vs Mrs. Hannam - Championship of the World - perhaps to be sold to spectators who were fortunate enough to be able to attend the event. Subsequent discoveries have uncovered just how significant this image is to the tennis world.

In 2015, under the auspices of the British Ephemera Society, we were privileged to be given a tour of the archives of the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club. We were excited to see a poster with the image of May Sutton, one of the players in the NOTL photo, an American who won the Women’s World Championship at Wimbledon in 1905 and 1907 and was the only non-British woman finalist from the inception of Wimbledon in 1887 right up to the First War in 1914.

We told the people at Wimbledon about the NOTL postcard and subsequently sent them a scan. They had never seen it before and were astounded that there would have been any alleged competition for the World Championship, which was always played at Wimbledon! We assume that an opportunist Ms. Sutton barnstormed North America, playing a series of sponsored competitions in various venues. The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum would love to have this card.

So we in NOTL were on the tennis ‘map’ at least as early as 1907. This card was incorporated into a recent exhibition of local sports events, one of the Museum’s ongoing programs of fascinating displays. But for a collector, there is a major philosophical challenge. Where does this slice of early tennis history belong - in the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, or in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Museum? The jury is still out. What do you think?

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.
Some of our wonderful cemetery tour volunteers recently got together on a Zoom chat and sent us a picture of their meeting! "The Graveyard Shift", as they call themselves, will not be able to do our regular program this year but wanted to keep in touch outside of the Museum!

Pictured top to bottom are: Briar Collins, Babs Worthy, Steve Steele, Judy Thornton, Jane & Tom Catcher, Denise Ascenzo (in Jakarta) and Liz & Geoff Senson.

75 YEARS SINCE VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY (VE DAY)

Friday May 8th is the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, also known as Victory in Europe Day, and in 'normal times' grand celebrations would take place across Europe. VE Day commemorates the formal acceptance of Nazi Germany's surrender by the allied forces at the end of the Second World War. On 30 April 1945, with Berlin surrounded by opposing forces, the leader of the Nazi party Adolf Hitler died by suicide. Karl Dönitz succeeded him as the German head of state, going on to negotiate an end to the war with the allied forces, which was made up of nations including Britain, the US, France and Russia.

While VE Day marks the surrender of Nazi Germany after six years of fighting, it did not signify the absolute end of the Second World War. Some fighting continued around the world, with Japan surrendering in August following the destruction caused by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs and the war coming to an official end on 2 September.

Some WWII items from the Museum's collection:

Canadian Soldier’s Handbook, helmet of Percy Gordon, Honour Roll of men who served in WWII from Niagara Town & Township (erected at the corner of King & Queen Streets), Gasoline License & Ration Coupon Book

Research Link:

LOCAL MEN WHO DIED IN WWII
GIFTS FOR MOM FROM THE MUSEUM SHOP

- Blue Willow Platter: $55.00
- 3-Tier Stand: $55.00
- Hot Air Balloon Earrings: $20.00/pair
- Votes for Women Mirror: $10.00
- Lace Fan: $24.95
- Lace Parasol: $40.00
- Small Silver Teapot Candles: $19.95

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GIFTS FOR MOM FROM THE MUSEUM SHOP

Assorted Hat Pins
10 different styles
15.00 each

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Resin – 11”L
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15” D
65.00

Fairy Garden Stake
2 Styles - Metal
12.00

Bunny Wall Hook
Antique Brass
18.00

Hare Straight Pin
15.00

Rabbit Mug
12 oz
6.00

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