Preserving Niagara-on-the-Lake’s heritage since 1895
Board of Directors January 1 - October 10, 2018
Faith Bell, President
Suzanne Hebert, Vice-President Society
David Hemmings, Vice-President Museum
Mona Babin, Treasurer
Ted Rumble, Secretary
Lorraine Joyner, Director
Denise Ascenzo, Director
Doug Phibbs, Director
John Sayers, Director
Ron Dale, Director
Chris Pratt, Director
Paolo Miele, Town Representative

Board of Directors October 12 - December 31, 2018
David Hemmings, President
Faith Bell, Past President
Denise Ascenzo, Vice-President Society
Ron Dale, Vice-President Museum
Mona Babin, Treasurer
Ted Rumble, Secretary
John Sayers, Director
Chris Pratt, Director
Gill Mukkar, Director
Paul Harber, Director
Jim McArthur, Director
Allan Bisback, Town Representative (beginning in December)

Staff
Sarah Kaufman, Managing Director
Amy Klassen, Society Administrator
Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator

Honorary Life Members
Joy Ormsby
Dr. Richard Merritt
Christopher Allen
Robert Knight
Nancy Butler

The Society & Museum wishes to thank the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Province of Ontario for their ongoing support.
On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the NHSM, I would like to say a special thank you to all our donors for their support in 2018. Without you, we would not be the successful community museum that we have grown to be.

2018 proved to be a productive year for both the Society and Museum. *Camp Kosciuszko: The Polish Army at Niagara Camp, 1917-1919* was our feature exhibition along with our lectures and other programs focused on this unique history of our community. This exhibition won the *Jachimczyk Polonia Award* from an organization of Polish Americans for bringing attention to Polish history. Drew Chapman Carpentry completed the restoration of our heritage windows and other architectural features in March and it has made our buildings shine! Two plaques were erected in Rye Park through a generous donation from David Murray and Elizabeth Surtees, which will create more awareness about the thousands of British Home Children who came through Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Society was very successful in raising funds to support Museum operations and to put towards our capital plans. We have made significant progress on our architectural plans for the expansion. This work is being funded 50% by the Government of Canada’s “Canada Cultural Spaces” fund. The other 50% we need to match, so much of the Society’s accumulated surpluses are being put towards this important work. Niagara Polo allowed us to add $40,000 more to the project. In total, the Society is contributing approximately $100,000 for the architectural work. By the end of March 2019, we will be ready with construction documents and will have the costing complete so that we can start our capital fundraising campaign. Through a generous donation of $10,000 from Faith & David Bell, an endowment was created at the Niagara Community Foundation, which we will continue to build in order to create more sustainable revenue for our operations.

We were excited to provide more outreach into the community through our NOTL Pop-Up Exhibits initiative. Satellite displays were mounted in St. Davids, Queenston, Virgil and Old Town which highlighted the history of our communities and brought our collection outside the walls of the Museum. Funding from the Niagara Region made this project possible, which increased our reach and our audience.

I would like to thank you again for your support of our exhibitions, programs, and the preservation of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s culture and history throughout the year. Our members and donors are vital to the success of our organization and help us to continue to flourish in our community. We are looking forward to achieving our goals of expansion to increase our collections storage and programming space, to make our buildings more accessible and to better protect our material culture for future generations. We know that we can achieve these ambitious goals with your support.

- Amy Klassen
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

In 2018, we presented a variety of programs and special events for our members and the community:

- Members Trivia Night
- Annual Lecture series - 7 lectures generously sponsored by Geoffrey & Lorraine Joyner and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Bed & Breakfast Association
- *Through Anne’s Eyes* performance on Janet Carnochan Day
- Bus trip to Guelph (Art Gallery of Guelph and the University’s special collections)
- Walking tours of the town from June - September
- New *Neighbourhood Walks* series that highlighted Chautauqua, Prideaux St. and the Dock area
- Participation on the NOTL Horticultural Society Garden Tour
- “*I Wet My Plants***” succulent workshop
- *Kid Curators* Summer Camp sponsored by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- *The Past is Present Heritage Festival*
- Hosted the Niagara Area Paranormal Society’s workshop
- *Niagara Polo* fundraiser
- Participation at the St. Davids Heritage Fair
- *Theatrical Cemetery Tours* at St. Andrew’s Church (12 shows)
- *We’ll Meet Again* Remembrance Day performance and sing-a-long
- *Famous & Infamous* biography discussion group (11 sessions)
- Participation in the annual Rotary Holiday House Tour and the Santa Claus Parade
- *Phoenix Soiree* holiday event and exhibition launch

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The NHSM continued to increase outreach to the community and beyond. Staff and volunteers represented the Museum at Simcoe Park on Canada Day, on Queen Street during the Peach Festival, at Kids Day at the Farmer’s Market, and at St. Davids Heritage Day. We made presentations to Town Council, the Ephemera Club, the Town Heritage Awards, and the Ontario Museum Association Annual Conference. We also assisted St. Andrew’s Church with plans to commemorate their 225 year history, participated in history programming at St. Davids Public School, partnered on a First World War weekend with the Shaw Festival and continued to play an active role in the Museums of Niagara Association (MONA).

With funding from the Niagara Investment in Culture program through the Niagara Region, the Museum hosted 5 pop-up exhibits throughout the community. The initiative included month-long exhibits in St. Davids at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, in Queenston at Laura Secord Homestead, and in Virgil at Meridian Credit Union. The displays highlighted the history of each of these respective villages. In addition, a display of fun facts about NOTL popped up at the Chamber of Commerce and a First World War exhibit was featured at the Shaw Festival’s Studio Theatre to compliment their season.

In September, with a generous donation from David Murray & Elizabeth Surtees through the Niagara Community Foundation, the Society erected two plaques in Rye Park. They highlight the work done by Maria Rye at *Our Western Home* and to honour the thousands of British Home Children who came through Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Museum is leading the Voices of Freedom Education Committee who is tasked with developing a walking tour application and school education program in conjunction with the Town’s newly opened Voices of Freedom Park. The app and school program will be launched in 2019 to educate people about Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Black History.
Participants enjoying a Neighbourhood Walk with volunteer Glenn Smith.

Brian Kon (Metis Nation of Ontario) showing his Metis Dot Art at our annual heritage festival.
“Steamer Dock with Black Dog” by Betty Lane. Copyright Noxon Estate.

Pop-Up exhibit on the history of Queenston at the Laura Secord Homestead.
EXHIBITIONS

CAMP KOSCIUSZKO: THE POLISH ARMY AT NIAGARA CAMP, 1917-1919
November 11, 2017 - November 15, 2018
This exhibition ran for a full year, closing in November 2018. It commemorated the 100th anniversary of the opening of Camp Kosciuszko, where thousands of soldiers of Polish descent trained before being shipped off to free Poland from 123 years of occupation. *Generously sponsored by: Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto, Polonia Canadian Institute for Historical Studies, and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 621—Polish Veterans.*

PAINTING NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
November 27, 2018 - May 4, 2019
This art exhibition features several works by local artists in our collection including a newly acquired collection of paintings by Betty Lane. All of the artwork depicts landscapes and built heritage in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

NOTL POP-UP EXHIBITS
July 1 - October 31, 2019: First World War display at the Shaw Festival’s Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre, and Fun Facts About Old Town at the Chamber of Commerce (lower level of the Court House).
July 1 - 30, 2019: Highlights from the history of St. Davids at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery.
August 1 - 30, 2019: Highlights from the history of Queenston at the Laura Secord Homestead.
September 1 - 30, 2019: Highlights from the history of Virgil at Meridian Credit Union.
*Generously sponsored by the Niagara Region.*

NHSM BY THE NUMBERS 2018

MEMBERSHIP
Total Membership: **455**
*This number includes many family memberships consisting of at least 2 individuals per membership

New Members: **54**

COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH
Research Enquiries: **166**
New Acquisitions: **259**
Donors to the Collection: **26**

VISITOR STATISTICS
Overall Attendance: **7,897**
Website Visits: **27,829**
Social Media Followers: **4,070**
Tours Conducted: **61**
Program Participants: **4,408**
Programs Delivered: **88**
COLLECTION & RESEARCH

In 2018 we had 26 donors with 259 items collected. Some of the highlights are:

- 37 Documents pertaining to William and John Claus, former officials with the Indian Department. Many of these papers deal with the Claus’ interactions with the Six Nations of the Grand River settlement.
- Tall Case Clock made in Niagara-on-the-Lake by George Hardy.
- Numerous archaeological artefacts from the former (demolished) “Indian Trading House” on the Servos property.
- Painting of the McDougal- Harrison House (165 Queen Street) by Hugh Robertson.
- School Desk from Virgil Public School.
- 67 Documents from the Hutchinson family, Virgil. Collection includes photographs and letters pertaining for Florence Hutchinson and Jack Hutchinson.
- 39 items, including a trunk, letters, military commissions pertaining to Lt. Col. Richard Cunningham Windeyer who commanded the 74th Battalion and was Niagara Camp Commandant during the First World War.
- 17 Photographs of the Farmerettes in Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- 7 artefacts from the Servos Family home, Palatine Hill, relating to Mary Elizabeth Olivia Josephine (nee Servos) Snider.
- Invitation to the Polish Army to attend an event and dance at the Town Hall.
- Niagara Camp Cycle Corps Pennant

Museum staff and volunteers assisted with over 160 research requests from researchers both on and off site. As always, we are continuously uploading our collection online. Summer staff and volunteers are working hard at digitizing and writing web descriptions for our online database. We currently have 3,919 items listed online. Keep checking our website www.niagarahistorical.museum, under the “Collections and Research” section, as we are always adding new content.

In March, we became the first community museum in Canada to have a Google Arts & Culture profile with featured exhibitions. This is an online exhibition platform which will feature our collection and provide a space for our temporary displays to live on. See it here: https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/niagara-historical-society-museum.

PUBLICATIONS

The Publications and Communications Committee has been busy working on a new book, with the working title “Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake” and an expected release date of late-2019. We made several online publications to our website including a listing of the girls who went though Miss Rye’s Our Western Home and a list of all those from Niagara-on-the-Lake who lost their lives during the First and Second World Wars.
The Farmerettes in Niagara-on-the-Lake during the Second World War.

Our Camp Kosciuszko exhibit on Google Arts & Culture.
Players from the Toronto Polo Club at Niagara Polo. Photo by Jansen Ozkur.

GRANTS & FOUNDATIONS

Grants and Foundations that supported projects in 2018:

**CANADA CULTURAL SPACES** - $98,220 was received late in 2017 to fund the first phase of work by architects Lynch+Comisso to develop drawings for the expansion. These are scheduled to be complete by March 31, 2019.

**NIAGARA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** - We received $500 from the Ann-Louise Branscombe Fund at Niagara Community Foundation, which is being directed towards our capital campaign. We also received $10,000 from the Murray-Surtees Fund at Niagara Community Foundation to erect two plaques in Rye Park.

**NIAGARA INVESTMENT IN CULTURE (NIAGARA REGION)** - $5,475 funded our NOTL Pop-Up Exhibits program.

**ON 150 (ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION) AND TOWN OF NOTL HERITAGE RESORATION & IMPROVEMENT GRANT** - Grants from these two programs that were awarded in 2017 helped to completed the restoration of our heritage windows in 2018.

**YOUNG CANADA WORKS** - $10,231.20 helped us hire two summer students to work on programs and collections.

**OPERATIONAL GRANTS:** The Niagara Historical Society & Museum is also generously supported by the TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE and the PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

FUNDRAISING

**PHOENIX CIRCLE**
In 2018, the Phoenix Circle contributed $8,500 towards our operating costs. As thank you for their annual contribution, they enjoyed two special events: a private tour of the St. Catharines Museum followed by lunch, and a “sneak peek” and private exhibit talk with Acting Curator, Shawna Butts.

The Phoenix Circle is crucial to the sustainability of the Society. If you are interested in making an **annual individual commitment of $500** to preserve our heritage, please contact the staff at the Museum.

**NIAGARA POLO**
The largest fundraising effort of 2018 was the return of Niagara Polo. Through the hard work and dedication of the Polo committee, the event was huge success, raising $40,000 for the Society. This could not have been possible without our generous sponsors and partners: Engel & Völkers Niagara, Arterra Wines, Niagara-on-the-Lake Bed & Breakfast Association, Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Walker Industries, Vintage Hotels, Sullivan Mahoney, Fairmont Properties, Aquabella B&B, Franklin-Templeton, Vieni Estates, BeauChapeau, Silversmith Brewing Company, the Town of NOTL, Toronto Polo Club, Parks Canada, Bosley Real Estate, Ann-Louise Branscombe Fund at the NCF, Meridian Credit Union, Sentinel Carriages, Remple Maximum Ice Service, Mori Gardens, Penner Lumber, Greenhawk Equestrian, Upper Canada Cheese Company, Premier Equipment, 105.7 EZ Rock, and Shaw Festival. A huge thank you to all the business who contributed to the silent auction and to everyone who attended the event! See you at Niagara Polo 2020!
2018 DONORS

Phoenix Circle
Armstrong, J. Richard & Diane
Bell, David & Faith
Combe, Donald
Enns, Amalie
Hansen, Michael & Cindy
Hinchliffe, Steve
Jackson, Chuck & Sandra Lawrence
James, Janet
Joyner, Geoffrey & Lorraine
Kam, Dennis
Masson, Betsy
Murray, David & Elizabeth Surtees
Pietrobon, Loretta
Sayers, John & Judith

Sponsors
Aquabella Bed & Breakfast
Arterra Wines
BeauChaeau Hat Shop
Engel & Voelkers Niagara
Franklin Templeton
Geoffrey & Lorraine Joyner
John Emery, Fairmont Properties
NOTL B&B Association
Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Sullivan Mahoney
Vintage Hotels
Walker Industries

Planned Giving
Pledges
Thornton, Judy

Capital Campaign
Ann-Louise Branscombe Fund at the Niagara Community Foundation

New Life Members
Beak, Rhys
Boot, John & Frances
Ram, Leila
Stark, Chris & Eileen

General Donations
Appel, David & Carol
Barberian, Helen
BeauChaeau Hat Shop
Beausoleil, Benoit
Bell, Faith & David
Bray, Marilyn
Brown, Helen
Bunting, G. Rapley
Bylsma, Karri
Caratun, Victor
Chapman, Lois
Chatten, Edward & Karen
Cherwongrodzky, Peter
Clark, Kevin J.
Clements, Jason & Elsie Mae
Cole, Barbara
Coyne, Joan
Davie, George
Dell, George
Deyholos, Richard
Dritsacos, Rick
Eaton, Evelyn
Ellis, Jan
Erasmus, Chris
Forsyth, Joanne & Bill
Garrett, Beverley
Gibb, Roger & Blythe
Goettler, Vaughan & Lauren
Granger, Marie Helene
Grishkewich, Dale & Lynne Raybould
Hansen, Michael & Cindy
Hemmings, David & Diane
Jennings, Dr. & Mrs.
Johnson, Fred & Sonia
Joyner, Geoffrey & Lorraine
Kudlats, Howard
Lauge, Rai & Jo Holden
Lavery, Robert
Legallais, Randall
Lopinski, John
Mackenzie, Diane
Mackie, Mackie
Maloney, John & Cheryl
Martorelli, Joanne
McClelland, Leonard
McEwen, Lucy
McQueen, Greg & Stephanie
Meloen, Rick
Meridian Credit Union

Memoriam
IN MEMORY OF KELLY JAMES
James, Janet

IN MEMORY OF DR. NANCY SMITH MERRITT
Merritt, Richard
In Kind
2 Moon Cottage B&B
Allen, Chris
Aquabella Bed & Breakfast
Ascenzo, Denise
Babin, Mona
Bader, Irene
Barberian, Helen
Bars by Brenda
Beads by Connie Paul
Beak, Rhys
Bell, Faith & David
Bella Grace Boutique
Bella Vita Ristorante
Betts, Jewell
Bloom & Co.
Butts, Shawna
B-Y’s Honey Farm
Casa Mia Ristorante
Cecile's Home & Gift
Collins, Briar
Dawna’s Designs
Denyer, Ruth
Drum, David
Finora, Brian & Monique
First Ontario Performing Arts Centre
Framing Art Centre
Fraser, Luba & Warren
Hanson, Mary Alice
Harber, Paul
Hebert, Suzanne
Hemmings, David & Diane
Historic Lyon's House B&B
Howe, Michael
Joyner, Geoffrey & Lorraine
Kaufman, Sarah
Kayla Marie Ceramics
Klassen, Amy
Klesh, Hether
Klotz, Pat
Knight, Bob & Sabina
Likavec, Maggie
Lincoln Appliance Service
Lulu's Wisteria B&B
Mactaggart, Terry
Marynissen Estates
Masson, Betsy
McArthur, Jim
Misiak, Zig
Morgan, Cecilia
Murray, David & Elizabeth Surtees
Music Niagara
My Motif
Natasha Bradley Home
Niagara Parks Commission
Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club
Nogas, Val & Fred
Penner Building Centre
Ram, Leila
Rance, Julian
Ravine Vineyard
Reif Estate Winery
Robertson-Woods, Dr. Kimberlee
Sayers, John & Judith
Sentineal Carriages
Serendipity, the Little French Shoppe
Shaw Festival Theatre
Spencer, Gwen
Starbucks Coffee Co.
Steele, Stephen & Dee
Taylor, Marnie
The Brass Bell Bed & Breakfast
The Old Winery Rest. & Wine Bar
Thornton, Judy
Tierney, Sheila
Time-Out Dolls
Veni Estates
Vintage Hotels
Walker, Dorothy
White, Jack

Collection
Allen, Chris
Butts, Shawna
Chamberlain, Mary Jane
Claus, Graham
Combe, Donald
Dobson, Lyndsay
Harley, Laurie
Hemmings, David
Hutchinson, Jack
Kelly, Dan
Mazur-Jack, Linda
McKenzie, Diane
Meloen, Rick
Merritt, Dr. Richard
Neuhauser, Brenda
Quinn, Blanche
Sayers, John
Simpson, James
Smith, Glenn
Taylor, Richard (Estate of)
Windeyer, David
Zalewa, Joanna
Brockville Museum
Polonia Canadian Institute for Historical Studies
Town of NOTL--Canada 150 Committee
The Society has over 100 dedicated volunteers who are vital to our success. In 2018, they contributed an estimated 3,000 hours of their time to our organization. In April, a luncheon was held to show appreciation for our wonderful volunteers. Nominations were also made to the Ontario Voluntary Service Awards to recognize individual efforts. Volunteers are involved in almost all areas of our operation including collections management, research, exhibitions, programs & events, fundraising, facility, and administration.

Without the support from these individuals, the Society would not be able to preserve the rich heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake and offer engaging exhibitions and programs for the community and its visitors.

**2018 ONTARIO VOLUNTARY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS:**

10 year pin: **David Hemmings, Victor Packard and Neil Rumble**

5 year pin: **John Sayers, Margaret Teare and Sue West**

*Cemetery Tour volunteers from left to right: Rick Meloen, Judy Thornton, Briar Collins, Denise Ascenzo, Pam Mundy, Joe Cassidy, Jane & Tom Catcher, Steve Steele and Geoff Senson.*
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<tr>
<th>Revenue Category</th>
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<th>2017</th>
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<td>Municipal Grant</td>
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<td>Federal and Provincial Grants</td>
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<td>Fundraising—Polo</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Gift Shop Sales</td>
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<td>Harmonized sales tax refunds</td>
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<td>Programs and Events</td>
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<th>Expenses Category</th>
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<td>Staff Salaries and Benefits (permanent and contract)</td>
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<td><strong>471,674</strong></td>
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| Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses | 58,823 | 34,147 |

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<th>Statement of Changes in Net Assets</th>
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<td>Net Assets - End of Year</td>
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For a full copy of the audited financial statements by Bridgman & Durksen, Chartered Accountants, please contact the Museum.