



MUSEUM Chronicles

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **December 6 & 7:** Rotary Holiday House Tour, 10 am—5 pm
- ◆ **December 14:** NOTL Santa Claus Parade, 11 am
- ◆ **December 18 - January 1:** Museum closed for the holidays
- ◆ **January 27:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **February 20:** Members Trivia Night, 7 pm
- ◆ **February 24:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm



The Snowbirds Land in NOTL!

Time stood still for spectators on Wednesday, September 20. In the morning, four Snowbirds (2 technicians and 2 pilots) hosted over 250 students from 5 schools: 3 from NOTL, one from Niagara Falls, and one from Grimsby. Young fans (and teachers and parents) listened in awe as each crewmember led a group to a plane and talked about the Snowbirds program.

The gates opened at 2pm for the public and the sun was out in full display. General admission ticketholders enjoyed static displays of a variety of different aircraft and community booths like the Museum, Fort George and the Library. The VIP hangar was alive with music and mingling guests. Over 2,500 people watched in awe as the Canadian Forces Snowbirds performed their amazing acrobatic airshow.

The event raised just over \$9,000 for the historical society, which is less than we had hoped, but overall feedback was very positive and the show was spectacular. It was definitely a wonderful community event. It is, however, very labour intensive to organize and there are a lot of fixed costs.

A huge thank you to our event Chair and Society Treasurer, Mona Babin, and her entire team. And to all of the volunteers who helped during the event, it could not have happened without you!

Finally, to our sponsors and community partners: Thank you for your generosity. We are so lucky to have support in this community. And to the Snowbirds, thank you so much for your service and for offering this opportunity to communities all over the country!

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Town of NOTL | Niagara District Airport | Allied Aviation | Modu-Loc | Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery
 NOTL Bed & Breakfast Association | Engel & Völkers | Staybridge Suites/Holiday Inn Express | Niagara Caterers
 The Exchange Brewery | Naylor | Walker Industries | First Ontario Credit Union | Konzelmann Estate Winery
 NOTL Rotary Club | NOTL Public Library | Royal Canadian Air Cadets | Civil Air Search & Rescue Association | Condrain Group
 St. Catharines Flying Club | NOTL Golf Club | Phil's Valu-Mart | Bosley Real Estate | Hendriks Valu-Mart
 Simpson's Pharmasave | Meridian Credit Union FLYGTA Airlines | Skyview Arts Inc | NOTL Realty | Mori Gardens

happening at the museum



FAMOUS & INFAMOUS: People & Events

January - November | 2 pm

Join us in the gallery on the fourth Monday of the month for a presentation by a local resident, followed by a lively discussion about either the life & times of the subject person or the influence/importance of the historical period/ event covered in the presentation.

DATE	PRESENTER	F&I/P&E SUBJECT
27 Jan	David Sydor	Louis Armstrong
24 Feb	Peter Kemball	Harry Nyquist
23 Mar	Suzanne Hebert	The Medicis (part 1)
27 Apr	Linda Fritz	Somerset Maugham
25 May	Richard Ficek	Roger Casement
22 June	David Aurandt	Col. Sam McLaughlin (part 2)
27 July	Gus Calderone	Kim Philby
24 Aug	Michael Clark	Simon Bolivar (part 1)
28 Sep	Julian Rance	Pioneer Aviation: Alcock & Brown
26 Oct	Ron Dale	Benjamin Lett
23 Nov	Lewis Ford	Magda Goebbels [& infanticide]

Rotary Holiday House Tour

We are again participating on the Rotary Holiday House tour. This year, come enjoy carollers in the gallery on Saturday, December 7th from 1-3 pm while you check out the gorgeous decorations by our volunteers and have hot apple cider! Free admission Friday, Dec. 6th and Saturday, Dec. 7th from 10 am to 5 pm for the House Tour.

Members Trivia Night

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20th, 2020 | 7 PM

Make a team of 6 and test your knowledge at this fun, casual members event. Don't have a team? Don't worry, we will make one for you! Call to book your seats.

This is a free event for members only.

#GivingTuesday

December 3, 2019

GivingTuesday is a global movement for giving and volunteering, taking place each year after Black Friday. The "Opening day of the giving season," it's a time when charities, companies and individuals join together and rally for favourite causes. In the same way that retailers take part in Black Friday, the giving community comes together for GivingTuesday.

The Niagara Historical Society planned a successful Snowbirds event this year which brought the community together for an extraordinary experience. Approximately 2,500 people watched the airshow at the Niagara District Airport, but many spectators watched from outside the airport, which did not result in revenue for the event. Although we had community support from sponsors and a sold-out VIP area, the event did not raise as much money as we had hoped for our organization due to the many fixed costs associated with bringing the Snowbirds to our community.

Help the Niagara Historical Society meet our fundraising goals for 2019 by making an online donation on GivingTuesday – December 3, 2019. Your donation goes directly towards the preservation of Niagara-on-the-Lake's unique heritage through the operation of the Museum with its educational exhibitions and programs as well as the maintenance of our unparalleled collection.

You can make an online donation through our page on Canada Helps and receive a tax receipt instantly. Visit www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/niagara-historical-society/ to make your donation on December 3rd!



Our Theatrical Cemetery Tour Volunteers celebrated 225 years of St. Andrew's Church history. Pictured left to right: Tom & Jane Catcher, Geoff Senson, Judy Thornton, Pam Mundy, Rick Meloen, Babs Worthy (script writer), Denise Ascenzo and Steve Steele. Special thanks to our "crew" Elizabeth Senson, Lesley Stewart and Leanne Jones. Photos by Briar Collins.



A NEW BUT FAMILIAR FACE AT THE MUSEUM'S FRONT DESK

Hello everyone – so as many of you know, I am now a 'real' staff member of this wonderful museum of ours. My title (if I can remember it) is "Visitor and Member Services Assistant". And that means you can find me here on weekends, looking after our members, encouraging new members, and working with our volunteers – more or less the kind of thing I've been doing for years with all our various museum programming events. And just for the record, I'll still be working on those same programs – creating and producing historical programs that honour our veterans, our stories, and highlighting Niagara's unique place in our country's history.

One of the reasons I wanted to join the team here at the Museum, in a more formal way, is because this museum 'community' is passionate about preserving the knowledge of where we've been, and looking towards the future with as much gusto as we look to the past.

I'm deeply honoured to be here, to know you all, and encourage you all to come by on the weekends for chats and laughter. And let's all keep loving our history and telling our stories, in a way that would make Janet Carnochan proud.

Feel free to email me with any suggestions, questions or concerns at: www.bworthy@nhsm.ca. Thank you everyone for welcoming me to the team.

- Babs

Pictured: Babs and Louie representing the Museum at the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair in Toronto.





A Piece of Her Mind

An exploration of Women's History through Textiles

November 12, 2019- April 25, 2020

Our winter exhibition, *A Piece of Her Mind*, officially opened on November 12 and it explores women's history through the textiles on display. For me, it was important not to look at these items as just utilitarian pieces, but as a way for us to help highlight women's history. In this exhibition you will find samplers, quilts, coverlets, other woven textiles, and devices that would have been used to create these items.

Unlike the pen, the needle was considered a woman's instrument and during the 18th and 19th centuries, no woman grew up without learning how to use a needle. This is why many girls started learning this skill at a young age. Once they were experienced enough with a needle, quilting became a right of passage for women from childhood to adulthood. Quilting provided women with a means to record their histories and gave them an outlet for personal expression and socialization through quilting bees.

Coverlets are unique, because unlike quilts, they are made from scratch rather than from pre-existing

fabric. Originally, coverlets were made in the home by women who used narrow looms to produce simple geometric designs, which can be seen on display. Women were involved in almost every process of a coverlet's creation from preparing the wool, to spinning and dyeing it. However, if a woman wanted a fancier coverlet, the complexity and physical labour involved meant that a professional weaver was needed, and these were often men.

Within this exhibition you will come across samplers made by members of the Servos and Clement family, a quilt made from Laura Secord's embroidery, and coverlets purportedly made by Servos/Whitmore women.

I hope that you enjoy this exhibition. It has been a while since the Museum has displayed some of these pieces!

- Shawna Butts
Assistant Curator



Support the Upper Canada Heritage Trail

The local Heritage Trail committee is looking for donations for the restoration of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail. The Niagara Historical Society would love support the initiative on behalf of our members. We have already collected \$600 towards this project from Board members and we welcome donations from others who would like to contribute. If you would like to assist us in preserving and restoring the Heritage Trail, you can mail payment to the NHS, pay in person at the Museum, or call with a credit card to make a donation. For more information on the Heritage Trail project visit heritagetrail.ca.

MUSEUM RECEIVES VALUABLE POSTCARD COLLECTION



Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum Managing Director, Sarah Kaufman is thrilled to report that a large collection of Niagara-on-the-Lake postcards has been donated to the Museum by John Burtniak, a widely respected collector of regional postcards and ephemera for many years.

As well as Niagara Camp and Old Town, the John Burtniak Postcard Collection of almost 1,000 cards embraces historical images of Queenston and St. Davids, built up over many decades with the painstaking connoisseurship of both a historian and a collector.

This valuable record is possibly the largest single collection of Niagara-on-the-Lake postcards and positions the Museum as the world's indisputably largest holder of images of our area. From the historical side, the images record early pictures of life in the Old Town, Queenston, St. Davids and Niagara Camp. And from the collector's perspective we see several almost-identical pictures of landmark Brock's Monument – but they aren't identical because they represent a collector's interest in different publishers and a variety of their card styles.

This aspect tells us that many, many people visited Brock's Monument over the years, bought postcards from a range of retailers and sent them to relatives and friends 'back home'. We are reminded that tourism isn't just a modern-day phenomenon.

A genealogy alert – some of the cards have names or addressees that may ring a bell with genealogists. We have already had an inquiry from a local person who is keenly awaiting the availability of access after the cards have been catalogued, probably by the Spring.

Thank you, John Burtniak!

- by John Sayers

Image: Several postcard images of Brock's Monument at Queenston attest to its popularity with Niagara tourists of a hundred years ago.

From the Managing Director

I'm so excited to be back in action at the Museum! My 10-month maternity leave flew by! Chris and I are over the moon with our three little girls: Isabel (4), Madeline (2) and Audrey (1)!

I have hit the ground running with several grants for the Tiny Museum program development and for the expansion/renovation project. Our fundraising goal is \$10 million: 8 million for the construction and associated soft costs (furnishings, exhibitions, collections equipment, etc) and 2 million for programming and an endowment fund to assist with future operations. If you would like to learn more about the details of the project, feel free to reach out to me.

A presentation to Town Council about our final major increase to the Museum's funding happened in November. If all goes well, in 2020 the Museum's funding will be \$264,936, which is close to the average funding received by other museums in Niagara from their respective municipalities. We have worked hard to increase sustainable funding from the Town of NOTL. 5 years ago, we only received \$93,740. Lets hope Town Council continues to show its support of Niagara-on-the-Lake's most important heritage resource.

We're developing an exhibition in 2020 on the history of the waterfront in our community with topics such as shipping, boatbuilding, fishing, ferries, leisurely activities and more. If you have any photos or objects in your collection that relate to Niagara-on-the-Lake's waterfront history, please give me a call. We would love to hear your stories in hopes that they can contribute to the exhibition.

- Sarah Kaufman

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you are an annual member and have not renewed your membership for 2019, a renewal form is included with your newsletter. Please take the time to fill out the form and return it to us at your earliest convenience.

Reminder: If you choose to have your newsletter delivered four times per year by mail, a \$5 fee will be added to your annual membership. If you receive your newsletter by email, no additional fees will apply.

For those that prefer to have a hard copy without the postage fee, we will always have copies available at the museum.

Volunteers Receive Provincial Awards

Each year we can nominate 6 volunteers for the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards, beginning with 5 years of service. The following volunteers received certificates and pins at a ceremony in Niagara Falls in October (pictured below left to right):

Bob Knight – 30 years

Faith Bell – 5 years

Glenn Smith – 30+ years

Fred & Sonia Johnson – 15 years

Dale Grishkewich (absent) – 5 years

Thank you to our many volunteers!!

Snowbirds in formation. Photo courtesy of Bertschi/Condina/laizzo



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Hemmings, Society President

This has been an exciting year for the Niagara Historical Society. At our last Board meeting, we approved the name change for our largest asset, now the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. This clearly distinguishes the different functions of the Society and the Museum. The Society is tasked with governance, raising funds for the Museum, and membership development. The Museum takes the operational leadership in delivering events, exhibitions and educational programmes to the residents of, and visitors to, the Niagara-on-the-Lake municipality. It receives 100 hits per day on its increasingly comprehensive social history website – one of the three largest in Ontario – and manages our extraordinary archives.

This year the Society has supported important community engagement activities such as the building of the new Tiny Museum on wheels, the detailed re-identification of all War Dead from both wars commemorated at our cenotaphs on November 11, the installation of a new War memorial plaque in St. Davids on November 10, and the extraordinary Snowbirds event in September. In addition, Museum staff were instrumental in developing the educational components of the new Voices of Freedom Park.

The Society, as the Town Historian, has submitted to the Town its studies on Victory Estates, Virgil/Lawrenceville's history, the significance and population of NOTL cemeteries, 21 and 27 Prideaux Street, stone markers in Old Town, and the importance of the Parliament Oak School building. We are also now preparing to release notes on all pre-1840 structures (homes and other buildings) and their associated personalities in Old Town for general access through the Museum website.

Our investment in the planning and architectural work for the proposed new extension to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum has now been largely completed, and we have "shovel-ready" drawings to enable the fundraising to begin. The Society has established a Planned Giving program, including an endowment with the Niagara Community Foundation; this is primarily related to philanthropic, estate planning and related fields of investment in the continuing operations of the Museum. The Society has also created a capital account for donations to the building project associated with the proposed Museum expansion.

Earlier this year the Society solicited bids for fundraising leadership and has now engaged Global Philanthropic in this task. We are well into the preparation phase of this work and expect to begin fundraising early next year. It is an exciting and daunting challenge, but we have confidence in our grant-writing skills and relationships with numerous foundations and key financial supporters. This effort may take at least two years to reach our target.

Once again, I would like to thank all our members and especially those who actively volunteer in projects and fundraising. The Society and its strength rests with all of you. Our love of the cultural heritage and historic landscape of Niagara-on-the-Lake attracts us to live here. Tomorrow's history is what we live today. Happy Holidays and our best wishes for the New Year.

Pictured: David Hemmings with donors Elizabeth Surtees & David Murray at the St. Davids War Memorial plaque unveiling. A huge thanks to Liz and David for supporting this initiative.



2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the AGM on October 10th, we welcomed new Board Members David Bell, Sheila Hill, Janice Johnston and Judy Thornton, all of whom bring with them a wealth of experience. We said goodbye to Past President Faith Bell, Ron Dale, Denise Ascenzo and Chris Pratt who finished their terms. We thank our outgoing Board for their dedication to the Society and for making sure we were always moving in the right direction.

At the end of the meeting we celebrated Sarah Kaufman's birthday and her 10th year employed at the Museum. Thank you to Sarah for her leadership over the last several years! For a full version of the minutes from the 2019 Annual General Meeting, please visit our website at www.nhsm.ca under "Get Involved".

Niagara Historical Society & Museum

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Hemmings, President
David Bell, VP Museum
Paul Harber, VP Society
Mona Babin, Treasurer
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John Sayers
Jim McArthur
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HONORARY LIFE SUPPORTERS

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

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



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MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum is open daily year-round .

May-October: 10 am to 5 pm | November-April: 1 pm to 5 pm

The Museum is closed: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, **Closed December 18 - 31**



NHS MISSION STATEMENT

We are a team of staff & volunteers which passionately collects, preserves, researches, educates and promotes the history of Niagara-on-the-lake and its communities. We inspire an appreciation of local history through engaging programs and exhibitions.

www.nhsm.ca