CURATOR’S CORNER with Shawna Butts, Acting Curator

In late 2018, we received some exciting news, Niagara Lodge No. 2 would be donating some of their organization’s collection to NHSM! For those of you who haven’t had a chance to go into the Lodge on days like Doors Open Ontario, they have their own Museum that showcases their organization’s rich history. It contains many documents and artefacts related to freemasonry in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Masonry in NOTL is older than our Town. When the land board met in 1791 to layout the town of Newark, they wanted a tavern (public house) to be built and a Masonic Lodge, both to be constructed beside each other. At this time there were two lodges in the area, Old Town and Queenston, but their origin story, like much of Masonry in southern Ontario, originates from Fort Niagara and the Lodges that were established there.

The document featured belongs to one such Lodge established at Fort Niagara. The Kings 8th Regiment of Foot met as Lodge No. 156 from 1773-1785, but it was not exclusive to members of the Kings 8th Regiment. In 1780, Joseph Clement and Lt. Daniel Servos were initiated into the Lodge; both were members of the British Indian Department based at Fort Niagara. This document certifies that Daniel Service (Servos) had entered an apprentice as a fellow craft mason and was raised to the degree of Master Mason while with Lodge No. 156. It is dated 1784, and is most likely the Niagara Region’s oldest Masonic document—it now resides in our collection.

We look forward to working more with Niagara Lodge No. 2 in the coming months and I encourage all of our members to visit the Lodge the next time they open their doors to the public!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 20**: St. Andrew’s Lecture, 10 am
- **March 21**: Art & Fashion Lecture, 7:30 pm
- **March 25**: Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- **April 10**: St. Andrew’s Lecture, 10 am
- **April 18**: Art & Fashion Lecture, 7:30 pm
- **April 22**: Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- **April 11**: Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
- **May 8**: St. Andrew’s Lecture, 10 am
- **May 16**: Art & Fashion Lecture, 7:30 pm
- **May 18**: International Museums Day—Free admission
- **May 27**: Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
Our Famous & Infamous biography discussion group has changed to Mondays! Join us in the gallery once a month for a presentation by a local resident, followed by a lively discussion about the life of a famous or infamous person from the past.

25 Mar  David Sydor: Lloyd Dennis
22 Apr  Betsy Masson: Hannah Peters Jarvis
27 May  Michael Clark: Theodore Roosevelt
24 Jun  David Aurandt: Col Sam McLaughlin
22 Jul  Julian Rance: Francesco Franco
26 Aug  Ted Rumble: Dusko Popov
23 Sep  Richard Merritt: William Claus
28 Oct  Linda Fritz: Vanessa Bell
25 Nov  Craig Tallman: Clementine Churchill

2019 LECTURE SERIES
ART & FASHION

21 Mar | Gary Parker
Regalia

18 Apr | David Aurandt
Back to the Future-the Museum and Deaccessioning

16 May | Rita Brown
“Exposed” - A Brief History of Underwear

20 Jun | Norma Shepherd
Canadian Crowns: An Exhibition of Vintage & Contemporary Millinery by Canadian Designers

18 Jul | Jonathan Walford
Collecting Fashion: What and Why the Fashion History Museum Collects

15 Aug: title and speaker TBC

19 Sep | Sonya de Lazzer
Bring me back a t-shirt: the history of the t-shirt and its role in fashioning the tourist landscape

Trip to Bermuda
We are planning a trip to Bermuda in November 2019! Find out about the history of this beautiful island, including its ties to the War of 1812. The trip will run November 13-18 and will include tours, sightseeing, museum visits and more! The cost will include a tax deductible donation to the Society. More information will be available soon, please contact Amy Klassen at the Museum if you are interested in this great experience!

Tickets are $10 for the general public or free for Niagara Historical Society Members. Reservations required as seating is limited.
As our major fundraiser this year, the Niagara Historical Society welcomes the Snowbirds on Sept. 11, 2019 at the Niagara District Airport. Come and be spellbound by the world-famous Snowbirds as they perform amazing aerobatics. Details can be found at www.notlsnowbirds.ca

Raffle winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Society's annual wine hamper raffle, held Dec. 1, 2018. First prize went to Sheila Tierney and second prize went to Frank Coster. The raffle raised over $1,500 for the Society!

CANADIAN FORCES SNOWBIRDS

Historical lectures held in the church sanctuary, Wednesday mornings at 10 am. Refreshments to follow in the Kirk Hall.

FEBRUARY 20: RICHARD MERRITT
THE SCOTS PRESbyterians’ WITNESS TO THE LIGHT: COMPLETION OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN THE NEW CAPITAL

PERPETRATED OUTRAGE IN ST. ANDREW’S CEMETERY: THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE LATE WILLY BLAIN

MARCH 10: DAVID HEMMING
THE MCFARLANDS OF ST. ANDREW’S

APRIL 10: RICK MELOEN
THE CROOKS FAMILY: MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN UPPER CANADA

MAY 8: RON DALE
TOMMY, OWS YER SOUL? - CHURCH PARADES OF THE NIAGARA GARRISON

323 Simcoe Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake | 905.468.3363
Free Admission. Donations Welcome.

Painting

Niagara-on-the-Lake

On display at the Niagara Historical Museum

NOVEMBER 27, 2018 to MAY 4, 2019
2018 Donors

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

Chatten, Edward & Karen
Cherwonogrodzky, Peter
Clark, Kevin J.
Clements, Jason & Elsie Mae
Cole, Barbara
Coyne, Joan
Davie, George
Deyholos, Richard
Dritsacos, Rick
Eaton, Evelyn
Ellis, Jan
Erasmus, Chris
Forbush, Joanne & Bill
Garrett, Beverley
Gibb, Roger & Blythe
Goettler, Vaughan & Lauren
Granger, Marie Helene
Grishkewich, Dale & Lynne Raybould
Hansen, Michael & Cindy
Hemmings, David & Dianne
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
Miller, Nicholas
Monette, Richard
Mooney, Edward
Morgan, Cecilia
National Advocates Society Inc.
Nixon, Peter
O’Connor, Sandra
Reynolds, Jim & Pat Hartman
Roy, Jennifer
Rumble, Ted
Russell, Ruth
Sandelli, Richard & Dianne

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

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

General Donations
Appel, David & Carol
Barberian, Helen
BeauChaeau Hat Shop
Beausoleil, Benoît
Bell, Faith & David
Bray, Marilyn
Brown, Helen
Bunting, G. Rapley
Bysma, Karri
Caratun, Victor
Chapman, Lois

Sayers, John & Judith
Scott, OC, Donna
Sherlock, Heather
Solomatenko, Victor & Anne
Steele, Rita
Stevenson, David & Sonia
Tallman, Craig & Sue
Taylor, Dr. Andrew
Torrance, Margaret
Vickerman, Jamie
Waller, David & Barbara
Weld, Harriet Bunting
Whitelaw, Tom

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

Memoriam
IN MEMORY OF KELLY JAMES
James, Janet

IN MEMORY OF DR. NANCY SMITH MERRITT
Merritt, Dr. Richard

Planned Giving Pledge
Thornton, Judy

In Kind
2 Moon Cottage B&B
Allen, Chris
Aquabella Bed & Breakfast
Arterra Wines
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
Bets, Jewell
Bloom & Co.
Butts, Shawna
B-Y’s Honey Farm
Casa Mia Ristorante
Cecile’s Home & Gift
Collins, Briar

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My name is Hillary Kerr and I was recently hired as the Voices of Freedom Educational Coordinator, working at the Museum on behalf of the Town’s Voices of Freedom Park project. I am excited to step into this role and to work with the Voices of Freedom Education Committee!

I received my Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Bachelor of Education degree from Brock University. I am certified to teach at the Primary and Junior levels as well as for the Intermediate/Senior level. I worked in the heritage field for about six years as a historical interpreter at McFarland House in Niagara-on-the-Lake and I am currently working as an occasional teacher at the high school level for the District School Board of Niagara. I hope to use my experiences in heritage and education to assist in the creation of meaningful educational content about Black History in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Over the next few months, the Voices of Freedom Education Committee and I will be working on the development of a walking tour app, which will allow the public to interact with the Voices of Freedom Park and explore the significant sites in the area. Users will be able to hear the voices and the stories of Black Canadians who impacted the history of Niagara.

Along with the app, we are developing an in-school education program, which will allow students to critically examine primary sources to piece together the stories of the Black community in Niagara-on-the-Lake from the 18th and 19th centuries. To support the in-school program, I also plan to develop a study guide for teachers to continue the discussion and education beyond the program.

If you have a question or would like to contact me you can email me at hkerr@nhsm.ca.

- Hillary Kerr
CLIMATE CHANGE! As life reawakens from winter in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we all know that climate change has not been fake news. There was plenty of opportunity to pick ice wine grapes and the Museum continues to hum with research requests, new exhibits and plans for the summertime. Our hard-working team of three, Amy, Shawna and Rebecca will be taking us into a busy year.

During the latter days of 2018, new Councillors and Lord Mayor Betty Disero toured our Museum facilities to get a first-hand view of our day-to-day operations. Their attention to activities of the Society’s fund-raising and research and the Museum’s operations and community events has been rewarding. In February, we were delighted to receive the news that the Council accepted our line-item request for Museum operating funds. This infusion of funds is important to the conservation and indexing of extensive Town archives and property instruments, and the preservation of documents and artefacts from important heritage organizations in the municipality. It also supports community events in the town, and it enables the Museum to respond to over 200 research requests annually.

The Society continues to pursue expansion plans for the Museum, using the property on which our former barn stood. Our requirements are now well developed and our architects, Lynch+Comisso, will shortly deliver the final building design and drawings in order for the Society to start its funding campaign. Our planned giving effort is also gaining traction.

The Council has given the Society the privilege of being its Town Historian, 2018-2022; and the Society has established a Research Advisory Panel to support responses to significant research requests, including property records, house and local family histories.

Before I conclude this message, I would like to say a few words about contributions by our Society volunteers and Museum staff. A taste for our unparalleled collection of early Canadian artefacts and archives can be seen in the following:

https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/niagara-historical-society-museum
https://www.facebook.com/NHSMuseum/posts/1616011251840360
https://www.niagarahistorical.museum/collection/index.html

The first of these sites is a little-known array of local photographs and their descriptions, collated by our Museum staff; the second is one element of our social media which continues to inform visitors about heritage and events in Niagara-on-the-Lake; and the third site has 5 subsections that cover comprehensive listings of social, military and land use records for Niagara-on-the-Lake over a period spanning 240 years. The most recent additions to this website are a listing of all the Mayors for NOTL as well as the local war dead for both WWI and WWII.

We are always in need of active volunteers to assist us with research – your help is needed. If you would like to be considered for our Research Advisory Panel based on your experience or knowledge of a particular part of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s history, please contact Museum staff.

I look forward to seeing you all during the coming year of activities around the Museum.
From the Acting Managing Director

First off, I would like to say a huge thank you to our new Town Council. We are extremely grateful to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake who have shown, through increased funding to the Museum, that heritage is important to this community. We will be receiving $209,790 from the Town this year, the second phase of our three-phase plan for more sustainable support.

2018 proved to be a great year for both the Society and Museum. 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 all the estimates done so that we can then start our capital fundraising campaign.

In 2019, many of our popular programs will return with some new initiatives as well. We are helping St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church to celebrate their history for their 225th Anniversary. We hope to see you at the historical lecture series at the church from February to May.

We recently received funding from the Government of Canada’s “New Horizons for Seniors” program. We will be developing an outreach program for seniors’ homes based on our theatrical cemetery tours and conducting a series of 5 lecture/workshops for seniors on historic costuming with Pam Mundy. Watch for more information in your June newsletter as these workshops will take place from June 10-14.

We are also excited to announce major funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for our Tiny Museum! A grant of $124,900 has been awarded to build the structure of our mobile museum and purchase a vehicle to tow it. Once built, we will be bringing the Tiny Museum to schools and community events in order to provide better outreach and bring our collection outside the Museum. An additional $30,000 has been donated from private sources for this wonderful project as well. Look for the Tiny Museum around town in the fall!

- Amy Klassen

Kid Curators (and Rebecca) Are Back for Another Summer

Hey everyone! My name is Rebecca, and I will be fulfilling the role as Assistant Curator until the end of September. This will be my second contract with the Niagara Historical Society & Museum and I’m thankful and excited to be back. Aside from assisting with the Collections Review Project and research, I will also be planning, organizing and implementing the Kid’s Curator Camp for the 2019 summer season. We will be running two weeks of camp this year. The first week will take place from July 15th to the 19th and the second will take place August 12th to the 16th. Both weeks will be based on popular fictional novels that are sure to transport our campers beyond their imaginations. In July, campers will travel through the wardrobe and experience the adventures from C.S Lewis’ Chronicles of Narnia; in August, campers will climb aboard the Hogwarts Express as they enter J.K Rowling’s magical world of Harry Potter. More details will be released within the coming months and we hope that your children and grandchildren can join us! - Rebecca Rizzo
Niagara Historical Society & Museum

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contact@nhsm.ca
Visit us at www.niagarahistorical.museum

MUSEUM STAFF
Sarah Maloney Kaufman
Managing Director
skaufman@nhsm.ca

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.niagarahistorical.museum