

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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

#### **Honourary 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.





# ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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 popup 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: <u>https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/niagara-historical-society-museum</u>.

# **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.

← Google Arts & Culture

Home Explore Nearby Profile Q



Our Camp Kosciuszko exhibit on Google Arts & Culture.



Players from the Toronto Polo Club at Niagara Polo. Photo by Jansen Ozkur.



The Phoenix Circle enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the St. Catharines Museum. Pictured left to right: Kathleen Powell (Manager/Curator of the St. Catharines Museum), John & Judith Sayers, Chuck Jackson, Molly Enns, Geoff & Lorraine Joyner, Faith Bell, Janet James and Sandra Lawrence. Back Row: Steve Hinchliffe and David Bell.

# **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, Sentineal 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 Cherwonogrodzky, 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

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 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

### 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 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 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 Savers. 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** Vieni 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



# **VOLUNTEERS**

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 Niagaraon-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.

#### Society & Museum Combined | Year ended December 31, 2018

	7	
REVENUE	2018	2017
Municipal Grant	158,535	154,645
Federal and Provincial Grants	144,889	180,363
Fundraising—Polo	98,647	(
Donations	26,018	54,38
Gift Shop Sales	24,449	23,46
Harmonized sales tax refunds	20,027	21,40
Admissions and Tours	19,896	15,853
Programs and Events	12,406	12,48
Memberships	10,650	15,853
Fundraising	10,146	21,872
Miscellaneous	3,951	4,278
Interest Revenue	883	602
	530,497	503,67
EXPENSES		
Staff Salaries and Benefits (permanent and contract)	162,127	154,00
Capital Assets Purchased with Designated Revenues	99,124	163,48
Polo Fundraising Expense	58,693	47
Maintenance and Utilities	34,196	28,44
Administration	29,998	26,97
HST/GST	18,676	12,78
Programs and Events	13,713	32,70
Gift Shop Merchandise	11,994	15,79
Niagara Community Foundation Endowment	10,000	(
Advertising and Website	9,721	12,19
Exhibition	8,971	16,49
Curatorial	7,958	97
Special Project Expense	3,079	81
Feasibility Study and Other	2,348	1,28
Publishing and Education	1,076	3,09
	471,674	469,52
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	58,823	34,14
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		
Net Assets - Beginning of the Year	137,310	103,16
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	58,823	34,14
Net Assets - End of Year	196,133	137,31

For a full copy of the audited financial statements by Bridgman & Durksen, Chartered Accountants, please contact the Museum.

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www.niagarahistorical.museum

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