



NIAGARA ON THE LAKE
MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT



WWW.NOTLMUSEUM.CA

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MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

After years of uncertainty, I am very proud that our Museum came through the dark clouds stronger and better than ever. The team of staff and volunteers have worked diligently to bring our Museum into the forefront of our community and we have strived to be the heritage hub our Town deserves.

Our visitation has grown by 22% which I believe relates to a change in our name and branding at the Museum. It was appropriate to change our name to Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum because that's what we are: Niagara-on-the-Lake's Museum. Our Tiny Museum, a mobile exhibit gallery, had its inaugural community tour with over 3,500 visitors! Annual sponsorship support will ensure this unique program reaches the community ever year.

We have also improved our digital offerings such as an annual online lecture series, documentaries, discussion groups and a comprehensive research page. This resulted in an increase of 26% in our online engagements. What a wonderful achievement for a small museum.

Further, after a revamp of our membership program we have seen an increase in our member numbers by 20%. We hope with the new options and the benefit program this number will continue to grow!

Our future is bright at the NOTL Museum with exciting new permanent exhibitions on the horizon and a new expansion in the works. In 2024 our focus continues to be on ensuring we have the space to meet our current needs but also the ability to grow into the future. With your support, we can revitalize our Museum to be a heritage centre for residents and our visitors.

My deepest thanks to all of you for recognizing the importance of history and how our heritage can inform our future. It is about pride in our cultural identity and believing that history can provide the context behind the world around us. Your support and continued interest in participating in our programs inspires our staff and volunteers to develop new and exciting programs/events every year.

- Sarah Kaufman

NOTL MUSEUM BY THE NUMBERS

5,685	MUSEUM VISITORS
37,087	WEBSITE VISITS
7,201	SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS
7,038	PROGRAM/EVENT PARTICIPANTS
8,760	DIGITAL PROGRAM VIEWS
106	PROGRAMS DELIVERED
542	MEMBERS

2023 Standard
Reader's Choice
Award:
**Platinum Award
for Best Museum**

2023 Standard
Reader's Choice
Award:
**Diamond Award for
Best Kids Camp**

Guests at the 2023 Heritage Garden Party, at the home of William & Patricia Garriock. Photo courtesy of Old Mill Photo.



A photograph of artist Wayne Moore with his family. Wayne is on the right, holding a young child. A woman stands in the center, and a young girl is on the left. They are gathered around a large painting on an easel. The painting depicts a woman in a blue dress. The background shows a grassy area with trees and a brown wall with chairs.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Artist Wayne Moore with his family, unveiling his commissioned painting for the Museum at Voices of Freedom Park.

The Tiny Museum

With funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Tiny Museum had a full season of community events and programs. Karlene Ouellette was hired as our Tiny Museum Coordinator and she took our collection out to 15 events including all the local fruit festivals, pop-up events with the NOTL Library, and the Celebration of Nations in St. Catharines. Over 3,500 people went through the Tiny Museum!

The Poppy Project

In addition to the installations at the Museum and the Court House, our Poppy Project once again expanded to a new location - this time at Legion Branch 124 on King Street. More than 30 wreaths were created for businesses and shop owners to display along Queen Street. For 2024, our wreath-makers have already begun creating more wreaths so that every single business along Queen Street can display a wreath from November 1 - 12.

A very special thanks goes to Davey Tree Expert Company, who donated their crew for set up and take down at both sites and to our wonderful group of volunteers whom we call "The Poppy Brigade".

And More

The Museum provided outreach to the community at a number of other events and programs including a presentation for University Women in Niagara Falls, hosting the Butler Society's international gathering, producing an event to commemorate Chloe Cooley at Voices of Freedom Park, hosting the Wineries of NOTL's "Dig Our Roots" event, and participation in the Rotary Holiday House Tour and the annual Santa Claus Parade.



Co-curators of Bound & Determined: Sarah Kaufman, Rochelle Bush, Natasha Henry-Dixon, and Shawna Butts.



Enthusiastic visitors lining up for the annual Treasures Sale.

PROGRAMS



Lectures - Six virtual lectures were delivered via Zoom in the winter, and six in-person lectures were held from April - September (sponsored by Geoffrey & Lorraine Joyner). We also hosted a panel discussion on Niagara's Indigenous history, in partnership with Niagara Parks.

Members' Trivia Night - Members were invited back to our in-person trivia night for a night of friendly competition.

Doc Club - From February to May, and from October to December, a virtual monthly meet-up was held to discuss and debate a wide range of Canadian and international documentaries.

Famous & Infamous - Monthly presentations were given by local residents about the life and times of people from the past, followed by lively discussion with participants.

Walking Tours - Tour numbers have steadily increased post-COVID and we saw an influx of private tours wanting to explore the sites in Old Town. Public tours ran Saturdays and Sundays from June to September with private group bookings throughout the year.

Anne: Older & Wiser - Maja Bannerman wrote, produced and delivered a performance looking back at the life of Anne of Green Gables, with music by Rusty McCarthy.

Yoga - Sonya de Lazzer offered six morning yoga sessions in our courtyard to get us moving in July and August.

Summer Camp - Our Kid Curators returned for a week in July and a week in August, and participated in fun activities around the community.

Doors Open NOTL - The NOTL Museum oversaw the annual Doors Open NOTL, when various historic sites and local businesses of architectural interest were open to the public, with free admission. These sites included locations rarely open to the public, such as the Lord Mayor's Boardroom at the NOTL Courthouse, the Masonic Lodge on King Street, and Butler's Barracks.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Heritage Festival - This annual community event included heritage demonstrations along with the much-anticipated treasures sale, food and live music. The event was sponsored by The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local and included: Blacksmith Neil Blythin, the Niagara Handweavers & Spinners Guild, Heritage Maps by Kathy Thomas, the St. Catharines Rug Hooking Guild, the Mackenzie Printery, a free Black History walking tour, the Town of Lincoln Museum, vendor Quixotic Minerals, the Niagara Old Tyme Fiddlers, musicians Aaron Berger and Nathaniel Goold, a pig roast by PigOut, and a bake sale with generous donations from our members. We raised over \$4,000 through the sale of your generously donated treasures, used books and baked goods. Our annual heritage festival is truly a community effort!

Band in the Barn - Over 125 people joined us for the Band in the Barn fundraiser held in July, at the historic Freel Farm. It was such a fun event, with rock and soul music provided by the Niagara band 'Dark Horse'. This was the second year for this event, which aims to highlight historic properties and provide a casual atmosphere to celebrate with our community.

We thank our planning committee of volunteers, led by Stewart Hall, for putting together a spectacular evening, and the owners of the historic Freel Farm for hosting us. Due to the generous support from our sponsors Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, BellaTerra Vineyards, and Konzelmann Estate Winery, and an impromptu live auction, the event raised over \$15,000!

Heritage Garden Party - An inaugural garden party was held in August at the historic property called Charlou, owned by our hosts Patricia & William Garriock. The afternoon could not have been lovelier with beautiful weather, a beautiful garden and amazing support from our sponsors: Niagara's Finest Hotels, Konzelmann Estate Winery, Carol Perrin of Sotheby's International Realty Canada, the Woodwinds Foundation, and GGS Niagara Landscaping.

The event aims to celebrate the social and recreational history of some of Niagara-on-the-Lake's historic properties. Charlou was once known as the Ball-Davidson house and was originally the home of the Town's first mayor, Alexander Davidson. One of the Museum's wonderful volunteers portrayed Davidson at the event, and brought with him other characters from the Town's past, all played by our volunteers. Parks Canada even sent over some soldiers to greet the guests as they arrived.

We are grateful to our garden party committee, led by Catherine Novick, for helping to raise over \$15,000 for the Museum through this sold-out event, and we look forward to another Heritage Garden Party in 2024.



David Hemmings, Brian Marshall, Brian Crow and Megan Wood at the Heritage Garden Party. Photo courtesy of Old Mill Photo.



Guests enjoying Band in the Barn at the home of Joey Rigg and Peter Wilkie, with music by "Dark Horse."

EXHIBITIONS

ALL ALONG THE WATERFRONT

May 18, 2022- May 23, 2023

An exploration of Niagara-on-the-Lake's relationship with the Niagara River and Lake Ontario including industries, recreation, and environmental implications. This exhibition raised awareness of how our waterways - the Niagara River and Lake Ontario - have shaped the history of our community.

STRIKE A POSE: THE ART OF SELF OBSESSION

December 1, 2023 - April 29, 2024

This exhibition explored how the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake documented themselves, either through paintings and drawings, or photography and pixels. Selfie Mode sponsored this display with a selfie station for visitors to use.

BOUND & DETERMINED: Chloe

Cooley, Enslavement and the

Fight for Freedom June 2 -

November 13, 2023

2023 marked the 230th Anniversary of the passing of the first anti-slavery legislation in the British Empire, which was passed in NOTL. Co-curated by Rochelle Bush, Natasha Henry-Dixon, Sarah Kaufman, and Shawna Butts, this exhibit highlighted the story of Chloe Cooley and how little was known about the 600 enslaved people who were living in Upper Canada up to 1834.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS

GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE

We added one new online exhibition in 2023: **Hitting Rock Bottom: The Commercial Fishing Industry in Niagara-on-the-Lake**. For those unfamiliar with our participation in this platform, Google Arts & Culture allows us to feature our collection and create online exhibitions. [We have over 20 digital exhibitions for you to check out.](#)



In the kitchen at Dundurn Castle for our volunteer bus trip; Denise Ascenzo portraying Jacobine Jones at the Heritage Garden Party; and Joan & Dick Coyne at the Peach Festival on Queen Street.

PUBLICATIONS

Our award winning and still popular book, *Making Her Mark: The Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake*, underwent a third printing in 2023. If you haven't purchased your copy, you can at notlmuseumshop.square.site.

COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

In 2023, we had 33 donors with **255** items collected. Some of the highlights are:

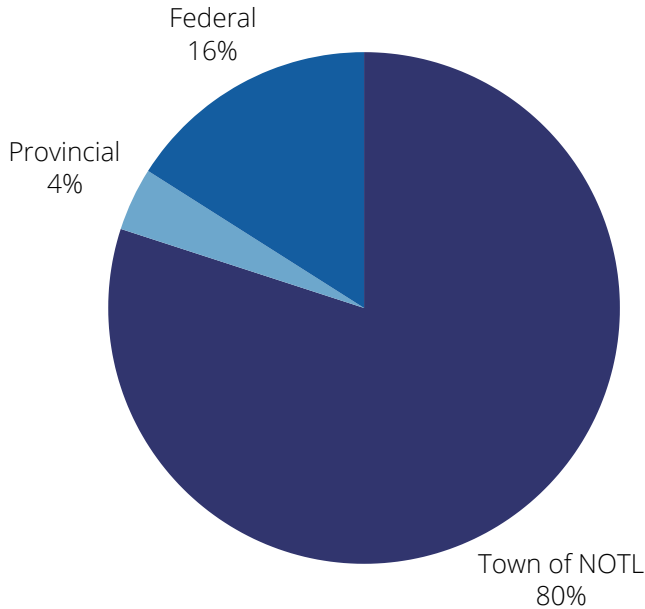
- Postage Scale and desk set from the City of Toronto steamship, ca. 1865.
- Team Photograph of the Shepherd Boats Ladies Baseball Team, ca. 1949.
- A conviction record for Stephen Sando for failure to remove snow from his property in 1873.
- Photographs of the Larkin Farm.
- Charter of pardon to Charles Norton (alias Philander Noble) and others, for the crime of counterfeiting in 1801.
- A ship rib recovered from the Niagara River.
- A collection of items from Christ Church McNab, including photos, various WWI Honour Roll lists, a scrapbook, and more.
- An andiron set from the Queen's Royal Hotel.
- A collection of art and prints from TAG Art Gallery, which includes a pastel drawing of the Niagara Gorge by Owen Staples.
- Margarita Howe's Order of Canada and her Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, War Medal 1939-1945, 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal, and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal.

Research requests were slow to rebound in 2023 after years of closed or limited research capabilities. In 2023, we handled approximately **75** requests from researchers.

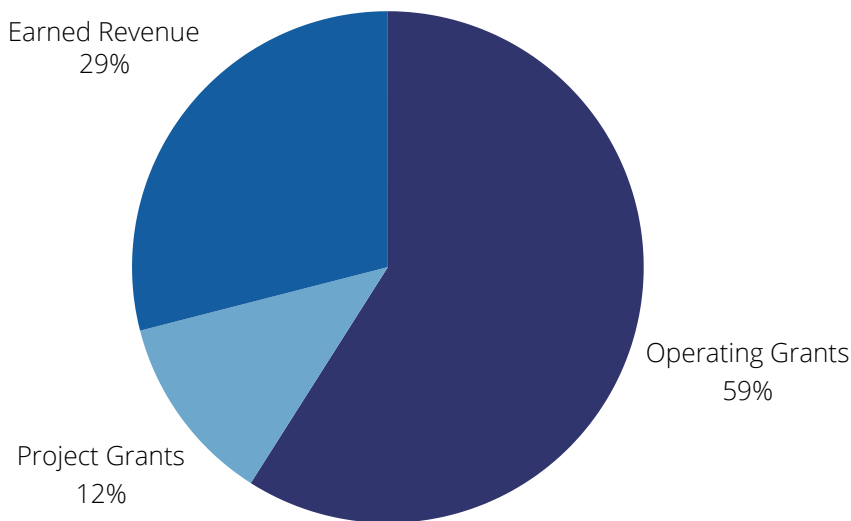
Our limited research capabilities stemmed from our inability to use our database during government lockdowns. Our system, PastPerfect, had to be used while onsite at the Museum. In 2023, we were fortunate to receive the Community Services Recover Fund from the Federal Government. This grant allowed us to hire a database coordinator, who helped get our database ready in anticipation of transferring to PastPerfect Online, the cloud-based version of this platform. PastPerfect Online will allow staff to work from anywhere in the Museum, in the community, and even when working from home.

In 2023, we also added an additional **251** records to our public-facing database, bringing the total to **5,906** records or approximately 11% of our collection. With our updated database, we can make records accessible online much easier now. [Check out the database here.](#)

GRANTS & FOUNDATIONS



Operational funding received in 2023, including subsidies related to the pandemic.



Revenue Breakdown 2023

GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2023

Ann-Louise Branscombe Fund at the Niagara Community Foundation

Community Museum Operating Grant (Province of Ontario)

Community Services Recovery Fund

Museum Assistance Program (Government of Canada)

Ontario Trillium Foundation

Seniors Community Grant (Province of Ontario)

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Young Canada Works/ Jeunesse Canada au travail (Government of Canada)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

REVENUE	2023	2022
Municipal Grant	281,029	272,844
Federal and Provincial Grants	140,984	173,517
Event Fundraising	34,660	150,069
Gift Shop Sales	29,808	34,905
Donations	28,079	22,177
Memberships	23,010	21,355
Admissions and Tours	18,612	16,440
Harmonized sales tax refunds	13,136	17,173
Interest Revenue	11,306	3,501
Programs and events	8,927	7,249
Special Projects and other	1,106	4,025
	590,657	723,255
EXPENSES		
Staff Salaries and Benefits	320,591	296,378
Maintenance and Utilities	59,281	32,548
Administration	49,465	44,298
Advertising and Website	24,066	23,324
Programs and Events	22,142	12,808
Gift Shop Merchandise	19,207	15,423
Harmonized sales tax refunds	18,337	25,732
Tiny Museum	10,346	10,169
Exhibition	8,179	6,137
Curatorial	4,944	6,941
Publishing and education	3,585	2,276
Event Fundraising	1,641	104,042
Planning studies and Other	487	174
Special Projects	0	3,525
	542,271	583,775
GENERAL FUND—EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	48,386	139,480

CAPITAL FUND	2023	2022
Capital Campaign donations	348,912	216,811
Harmonized sales tax refund (capital)	14,904	5,478
Capital Campaign interest revenue	10,036	4,421
Capital fundraising expense	(60,817)	(62,002)
Harmonized sales tax (capital portion)	(16,826)	(7,864)
CAPITAL FUND—EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	296,209	156,844
COMBINED—EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	344,595	296,324
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		
General Fund	2022 Balance	389,855
	Excess of Rev. over Exp.	48,386
	Transfers	(126,974)
	2023 Balance	311,267
Capital Fund	2022 Balance	576,265
	Excess of Rev. over Exp.	296,209
	Transfers	126,974
	2023 Balance	999,448
Total Net Assets		1,310,715

FOR A FULL COPY OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BY BRIDGMAN & DURKSEN, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE MUSEUM.

2023 DONORS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Allen, Christopher
Anonymous
Bader, Irene
Beddage, Don D.
BMO Financial Group
Busbridge, Randy
CIBC
Clarke, Elizabeth
Combe, Donald
Garriock, William & Patricia
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Johnson, Tim & Lisa
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Kaufman, Sarah & Chris
Knight, Betty & Jamie
Laing, David & Gwen
Lakeview Vineyard
Equipment Inc.
Masales, Marlene
McArthur, Jim & Sandra
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Mee, Cathleen
Merritt, Richard
Miller, Pauline
Milley, Anthony
Milligan, Penelope
Milner, Donald
Mitchell, Sally & Julian
Trchsel
Napier-Andrews, Nigel &
Diane Watts
Niagara Community
Foundation - Ann-Louise
Branscombe Fund
Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf
Club

Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary
Foundation
Osborn, Richard
Parr, Paddy
Phillips, Neil
RBC Private Banking
Regier, Ingrid
Rumble, Ted & Rona Gray
Sears, Robert William
Slack, Nina & Bill
Solomatenko, Victor & Anne
Tallman, Craig & Sue
Taylor, Les & Jean
Teare, Margaret
Topps, Alexander
Two History Buffs

SPONSORSHIP

Bella Terra Vineyards
Carol Perrin - Sotheby's
International Realty Canada
Geoffrey & Lorraine Joyner
GGG Niagara Landscaping Inc.
Konzelmann Estate Winery
Niagara Holiday Rentals
Niagara's Finest Hotels
Ravine Vineyard Estate
Winery
Woodwinds Foundation

PHOENIX CIRCLE

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Combe, Donald
Davey, Albert
Hansen, Mike & Cindy
James, Janet
Joyner, Geoffrey & Lorraine
Kam, Dennis
Knight, Betty & Jamie
Masson, Betsy
Murray, David & Elizabeth
Surtees
Novick, Catherine
Sayers, John & Judith

GENERAL

Anderson-Kozik, Linda
Anonymous
Atwood, Hugh
Babin, Mona
Baker, Carroll
Balasiuk, Tim
Baxter, Susan
Beak, Lori
Benson, Rosemary
Binnie, Amanda
Birker, Gabrielle
Blouin, Richard
Bonic, Jackie
Boot, Frances
Bourk, Joan
Bullen, Keith & Mary
Burtniak, John
Carolan, Sharon
Carriere, Alison
Catcher, Tom
Chapman, Lois
Cherwonogrodzky, Peter
Childs, Calvin
Chisholm, Tony
Christensen, Sheryl
Church, Hugh
Clark, Cynthia
Clarke, Carol
Clarke, Ted
Cohen, Steve
Crow, Brian
Crupi, Cosimo
Dagg, Jane
Darling, Michele
Davis, Daniel
De Filippis, Joseph
Delaat, Ruth
Denault, Christine
Denyer, Ruth
Deyholos, Richard
Durward, Lynne & David
Earl, Christine
Ellis, Janice

2023 DONORS

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Hall, Stewart & Diana
Halloran, Anne
Hartford, Jan
Hawes, Susan
Hawkins, Gail
Heaman, Lynne
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Hickman, Wilma
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Hill, Dave
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Hyde, Emily
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Kennedy, Annabel
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Klose, Liz
Lamarre, Ruth
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Lavigne, David
Leggett, Marcey
Lindsay, Ann
Lockhart, Nancy
Lovelace, Virginia
Luczay, Marguerite

MacLean, Candace
MacLean, Kevin
Macri, Nancy
Magnacca, Allan
Mantle, Judy
Marozzo, Marie
Marquis, Rhonda
McCalla, Dianne
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McCloskey, Rick
McEwen, Lucy
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McLeod, Judith
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Miller, Pauline
Milligan, Penny
Mills, Etta
Millward, Steven
Mitchell, Sally
Moore, Malcolm
Mottram, Diane
Mouget, Nancy
Mulcaster, Peter
Neame, Peter
Newey, Janet
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Nixon, Kathy
Northfield, Margaret
O'Brien, Anna
O'Connor, Marilyn & William
Okun, Sharon
Oliver-Malone, Elizabeth
Opalinski, Joanna
Ornthanalai, Chayawat
Pam, Darlene
Parks, Brenda

Parks, David
Pellett, Audrey
Petrenko, Alexa
Pietrobon, Loretta
PMinnovations Inc
Porter, Carolyn
Powers, Mary
Powers, Thomas
Pratt, Deborah
Queenston Quarry
Reclamation Company Ltd.
Reynolds, James
Ridesic, Robin
Rogers, Joy
Rosenberg, Ria
Sayers, John & Judith
Scarland-James, Marie
Scrivener, Charles
Semple, Chris
Sherlock, Brett
Sherlock, Heather
Shiels, Margaret
Simon, Peter
Smith, Nancy
Snyder, Judy
Starzynski, Deborah
Stevenson, David & Sonia
Straw, Geoff
Taylor, Marnie
Taylor, Tim & Kathy in honour
of Jodey Porter
Topps, Alexander
Tranter, Barbara
Trivett, D.
Troutbeck, Ina
Troyer, Jill
Vanderperk, Liz
Virelli, Gregory
Walker, Margret
Walker, Peggy
Webber, George
Weiss, Paul
West, Mary
Williams, Grant
Wood, Megan
Zalepa, Gary

2023 DONORS

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Alma, William & Elizabeth
Coxworthy, Rene
Garriock, Bill & Patty
Goul, Bill & Catherine
Hill, Barry
McArthur, Jim & Sandra Smith
Moody, Kenneth
Moor, Doreen
Novick, Catherine
Oprici, Steven
Panko, Andrew
Scott, John
Scrivener, Charley
Snyder, Judy
Solomatenko, Victor & Anne
Virelli, Greg

MEMORIAM

In Memory of Joy Ormsby
Merritt, Richard

In Memory of Linda Lowrey
Lowrey, Tom

In Memory of Liam Neumann
Oprici, Stephen
Santsche, Gail
Teare, Margaret

In Memory of Bruce Dixon
Busbridge, Randy
Johnson, Doug
Milley, Anthony

IN KIND

Allen, Chris
Andres, Buddy
Ascenzo, Denise
Biondi, Vincent
Boulton, Terry
Calhoun Sportswear
Chapman, Lois
Cole, Barb
Downes, Vicky

Epson Canada
Erion, Jan
Fedorkow, Lou
Finora, Monique
Goldspink, Tom
Hall, Dianne
Hall, Stewart
Harley, Laurie
Hebert, Suzanne
Hill, Joan
Howe, Marsha
Joyner, Lorraine
Kaufman, Sarah
Klassen, Amy
Knight, Sabina
Larmet, Susan
Letkemann, Charlotte
Loat, Trish
Lorenc, Anne
Merritt, Richard
Mitchell, Sally
Mundy, Pam
Nixon, Laurie
Nixon, Mary Kathryn
Oliver-Malone, Elizabeth
Paine, Deborah
Palframan, Carolyn
Rumble, Ted & Rona Gray
Sant, Kerri
Sayers, John & Judith
Servos, David
Slack, Nina
Smith, Glenn
Thomson, Janice
Uba, Robin
Walker, Margaret
Willowbank School of
Restoration Arts
Wright, Peter
Zanner, Gary

COLLECTIONS

Adams, Dean
Allen, Chris
Brunton, William

Carson, Richard
Christ Church McNab
Combe, Donald
Condina, Cosmo
Dale, Ron
Davey, Albert
Dawe, Bonnie
Dirks, Linda
Foley, Patrick
Hilko, Diane
Howe, Louise
Judge, Richard
Lailey, Elsie
Letkemann, Charlotte
Loat, Trish
Meloan, Rick
Merritt, Richard
Newell, Annita
Nisbet, Steve
Regehr, Daniel
Reive, Thomas
Roberta A. Smith University
Library, Muskingum
University
Scott, David
Servos, David
Smith, David
St. Catharines Museum
St. Mark's Anglican Church
TAG Art Gallery
Taylor, Marnie
Waterloo Library
Wilson, Robert

PLANNED GIVING PLEDGES

Anonymous
Joyner, Geoffrey & Lorraine
Masson, Elizabeth
Sayers, Judith & John
Servos, David & Daniel
Lockwood
Servos, Glen & Elaine Servos
Thornton, Judy

When planning your estate remember the Niagara Historical Society. Contact us to learn more about different planned giving options.

2023 DONORS

The Society & Museum wishes to thank the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Province of Ontario for their ongoing support.



THE PHOENIX CIRCLE

In 2023, the Phoenix Circle contributed \$10,500 towards our operating costs. As a thank you for their annual contribution, these donors enjoyed a private reception at the Sailing Club, a “sneak peek” of our summer exhibition, and a special collections talk with our Curator, who brought out some of her favourite War of 1812 artefacts and archives for an up-close viewing.

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

THE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MUSEUM ENDOWMENT

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum Endowment Fund was established in 2018 at the Niagara Community Foundation, the annual earnings of which go straight to Museum operations. If you are interested in contributing to our endowment to assist with building sustainable funding for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, please speak to Sarah Kaufman, Managing Director. Donations of stocks and securities are accepted.

A private endowment fund was also created in 2020 to help support Museum operations, the **Ron and Linda Fritz Endowment Fund at the Ontario Arts Foundation**. Thank you for the generous gifts from these donors who appreciate the importance of our future sustainability.



VOLUNTEERS

2023 Ontario Volunteer Service Award Winners:

35 year pin:
Richard Merritt

15 year pin:
David Hemmings

5 year pin:
Mona Babin
Dick Coyne
Ted Rumble
Ken Schander

As ever, NOTL Museum volunteers are the engine behind the massive output of programming, events, activities and operations, that are vital to any museum.

More than 150 volunteers actively worked with the NOTL Museum in 2023, clocking more than 2500 hours of work, with an average 200 hours per month of dedicated volunteer hours. And that doesn't include the countless hours that go unlogged by our Board of Directors. Individually, and as a solid team, they help govern the Society and provide their unique skills, consultation, and invaluable support to our staff.

Every job has its value, and every volunteer brings their own experience to the tasks needed, with a dedication, efficiency, and sense of pride that is humbling. In 2023, as always, volunteers provided the necessary, from data entry and collections management, poppy making and gardening, to being active ambassadors and tour guides for hundreds of visitors to our town. In 2023, our walking tours attracted more than 400 participants for public and private tours, making 2023 one of our most successful walking tour years ever.

To honour our volunteers in 2023, we provided two bus tours, courtesy of an Ontario Seniors Community Grant program that enabled us to take more than 70 volunteers on daytime excursions. Our first outing was to Hamilton's Dundurn Castle Historic Site, followed by garden tours and a picnic at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Our second outing was to Toronto, and the Art Gallery of Ontario, with an unconventional pub lunch.

So, whether it be digging, weeding, collecting, filing, shelving, recording, transcribing, protecting, or walking, our volunteers are the heartbeat of this Museum.



Deborah Williams and Catherine Novick (Chair) Heritage Garden Party Committee.



**43 CASTLEREAGH STREET
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE,
ONTARIO, L0S 1J0
CONTACT@NHSM.CA
905.468.3912**

WWW.NOTLMUSEUM.CA