

**BUILDING
HISTORY**

Strengthening Community

NHSM HALL

REVITALIZATION & EXPANSION



NIAGARA ON THE
LAKE
MUSEUM



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Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage has been lovingly preserved and celebrated by the Niagara Historical Society through our museum since 1896.

We have a deep respect for our local heritage that is of national significance.



WE NEED YOU

To broaden our ability to engage the community and preserve these national treasures for generations to come!

Together, let's embark on a journey to make our history accessible and revitalize our Museum into a 'must see' destination.





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WHY WE MATTER

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum was built on passion, dedication, pride of community, and genuine enthusiasm.

Those ideals are the foundation of the museum we have today.



**An unparalleled collection that is
nothing short of an infinite treasure chest.**

**80
ANNUAL
PROGRAMS**

Programs and events that inspire and excite a growing membership.

**100
VOLUNTEERS**

Opportunities to nurture community relationships built on the joy of learning and discovery.

**600
MEMBERS**

A truly unique program of bringing history alive for young explorers. And maybe older ones too...

Galleries where you can explore 9,000 years of Niagara-on-the-Lake's history - from its Indigenous roots, its Black and Loyalist history, women's history, such as Laura Secord, to its truly significant role in Canada's military achievements.

**10,000
ANNUAL VISITORS
AND PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS**

This is an organization that not only reflects the economic, social and cultural growth of Niagara-on-the-Lake, but also protects its very character. The beauty and seduction of heritage is revered.

And the joy and pride of ancestry is honoured. That is why the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum belongs to the community, and answers to the community.



We will enhance accessibility to Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage by

Engaging youth

Help us grow our youth-programs to provide experiential learning beyond the classroom by expanding school visits and summer camps, and by developing March Break, PD day and after-school programs. Our local history is unique on a provincial and national level which, is not addressed in today's curriculum. We plan to fill the gap through the use of a dedicated programming space.

Eliminating barriers

Increase social inclusion by becoming a barrier-free site with an elevator, access walkways and accessible washrooms.

Modernizing exhibits

Let's broaden the history of our community by including significant Indigenous history, Black history, military, architectural and geographic history, and more through fun and engaging interactive displays.

Increasing program capability

A new programming space would allow us to do more theatrical presentations, lectures, and hands-on collections and heritage workshops.

Opening the vault

Expand and improve our online presence, and through a dedicated research space, provide visitors the ability to interact with the collection. Expanding our storage space will give capacity to improve our collection and continue to ensure the safety of Niagara-on-the-Lake's significant artefacts and archives.



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Challenges limiting accessibility

A lack of proper programming space impedes the growth of children's programs and restricts the Museum's capability to host engaging programs, lectures and partnership activities.

Over-subscribed storage space constrains our ability to accept and preserve our culturally significant donations.

Absence of barrier free infrastructure prevents us from welcoming our entire community as well as meeting the legal requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Limited exhibit space prevents us from hosting exhibitions with emerging technologies and interpreting the complete story of our community.

Limited research space creates barriers to sharing our collections.



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HOW DO WE
REACH THESE
OBJECTIVES?



Photo: Fab 10 Photography

We are embarking on a \$5 million dollar community capital campaign for the restoration and expansion of our Museum.

Your support, along with potential government grants, will help us reach our \$10 million project target.





EXPANSION

A new building, basement and exhibition mezzanine

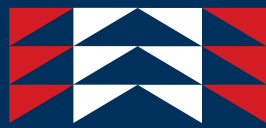
The Society owns a 2,381 sq. ft. parcel of land behind Memorial Hall upon which a 6,225 sq. ft. 2-storey building will be constructed. It beautifully complements existing structures and will hold programming space in a multi-purpose room for the programs mentioned above. This will be a unique space within the community.

The main floor multi-purpose space, with upgraded audio-visual equipment and attached servery, will host events for up to 100 people, as well as children's programming.

The elevator and mezzanine will provide barrier-free accessibility throughout the facility, welcoming the entire community. This will bring the museum into compliance with the accessibility legislation.

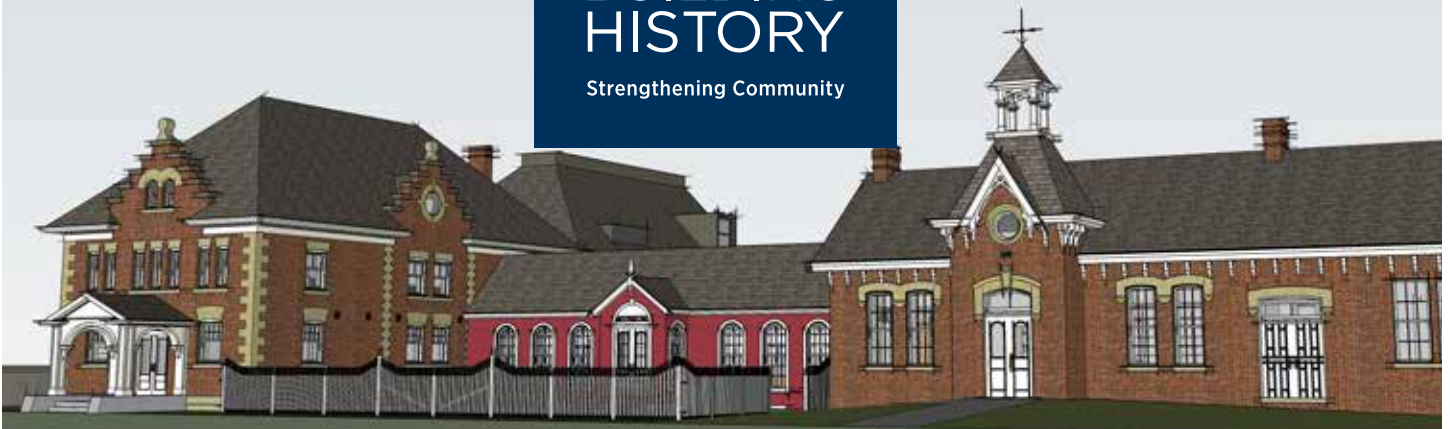
The second floor will provide 1,396 sq. ft. of additional space for temporary exhibits. Special attention has been paid to lighting design which will make this a compelling space for travelling exhibitions.

The basement connects to the new basement under Memorial Hall, providing additional storage space for our growing collection.



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RENOVATION

Renewal of existing buildings

Did You Know?

Our Memorial Hall is Ontario's first purpose-built museum, built in 1907.

Key aspects of the restoration include:

A basement underneath Memorial Hall will provide much-needed storage space and ensure the structural safety of our 113-year old building.

A dedicated research room will be a vital resource for the community and researchers to enjoy greater access anytime during opening hours.

A reconfiguration of the second floor Link gallery will connect existing and new structures, with new and wider gallery spaces. Our permanent exhibitions will be revamped to be more interactive and inclusive of Indigenous, Mennonite, and Black history as well as other local communities.

An expanded gift shop and reconfigured entryway will improve visitor services.

A fire suppression system will better protect our collections and heritage buildings.



Help us make history accessible and preserve the heritage behind the beauty of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This project honours your local heritage and fosters what your community cares about: the prevailing and longstanding spirit of placing the current community in the context of how it was founded.

Join us on this exciting journey as we build toward the future of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum!

Contact Sarah Kaufman, Managing Director to learn how you can help make our vision a reality.

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