

**NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**127<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 6 pm**  
**AGENDA**

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Welcome and confirmation of a quorum   | <b>Mona Babin</b>                   |
| 2. Approval of the Minutes of the 126 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held Thursday, October 14, 2021                        | <b>Mona Babin</b>                   |
| 3. President's Report   | <b>Mona Babin</b>                   |
| 4. Town Representative Report   | <b>Allan Bisback</b>                |
| 5. Finance and Administration Committee Report and 2022/2023 Budget presentation.<br>Planned Giving Committee Report              | <b>Ted Rumble</b>                   |
| 6. Request to appoint audit firm<br><b>MOTION: To appoint Bridgman &amp; Durksen as our auditors for the 2021 fiscal year.</b>    | <b>Ted Rumble</b>                   |
| 7. Membership and Operational Fundraising Committee Report  | <b>George Webber</b>                |
| 8. Physical Plant and Planning Committee Report   | <b>Jim McArthur</b>                 |
| 9. Publications & Communications Report   | <b>John Sayers</b>                  |
| 10. Governance Committee Report   | <b>Judy Thornton</b>                |
| 11. Capital Project – Planning & Logistics Committee  | <b>Alexander Topps</b>              |
| 12. Capital Fundraising Committee   | <b>Sarah Kaufman/Peter McKinley</b> |
| 13. Managing Director's Report/Collections Report   | <b>Sarah Kaufman</b>                |
| 14. Report from the Nominations Committee<br><b>accept the new slate of Directors for 2022/2023</b>                               | <b>David Hemmings MOTION: To</b>    |
| 15. Elections for the 2022 Nominations Committee<br><b>MOTION: To accept the new slate for the 2022-2023 Nominating Committee</b> | <b>Mona Babin</b>                   |
| 16. Adjourn<br><b>MOTION: To adjourn</b>  |                                     |

**Important Dates:**

**October 20-22:** Cemetery Tours 6:30 & 7:30pm

**November 1-14:** The NOTL Poppy Project

**November 2:** Doc Club, 10 am

**November 30:** History in the Vineyard @ Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery 5:30pm

**December 3 & 4:** Rotary Holiday House Tour

**December 7:** Doc Club, 10 am

**December 18 – January 1:** Museum Closed

## **NHS Annual General Meeting – President’s Report**

*Thursday, October 13, 2022 – 6pm in person and via Zoom*

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**Our Vision:** A museum with expanded experiences that connect and engage people with the past, being the heritage champion for ALL who value Niagara-on-the-Lake, its history and culture.

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Hello everyone,

What a year! It’s truly a pleasure and a privilege working at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. I can tell you that, here, we focus on each employee and board member’s strength, which makes us a very strong team! I would like to personally thank each and every Board Director (George, Ted, Alex, Paul, Judy, Jim, Tim, Sandra, Stewart, Ben, and Allan) for your active and productive contribution this past year.

We also have the best staff in the business. Led by Sarah, the team includes Amy, Shawna, and Barbara. Each contributed over and above to ensure the work was done to meet our goals and strategic plan.

With this amazing group, what did we accomplish?

### **Leadership**

- Sarah Kaufman and I met regularly to review NOTL Museum business. I offered on the spot training and Sarah followed up on development opportunities for herself and her team, like courses, committee participation, special projects, etc.
- Our Executive board met and developed an information session for board members to ensure they were up to speed on key projects.
- I met with elected officials and local establishments to ensure everyone had current information on our activities and were aligned to our growth strategy.

### **Volunteers**

Following local COVID-19 protocols, we were able to offer volunteer opportunities through our regular programs and events. Our board members also stepped up to the plate by increasing their volunteer hours.

### **Expansion**

The Executive board met by-weekly to work on the expansion project. We reviewed presentations, voted on processes, and shared perspective to ensure the campaign was the most effective and efficient. Fundraising is going well.

I would like to thank Judy Thornton for her 3 years on the board. Judy, a long-term volunteer for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, was chair of the governance committee and updated and improved our guidelines. Judy reviewed existing procedures, recommended improvements, and ensured our team was up to date based on current laws. Thank you for your active participation. You really made a difference. Judy will continue to volunteer with the NOTL Museum.

George Webber, our current Vice-President, is staying on as a Director but will no longer be on the Executive due to other personal commitments. George has been a key contributor to our fundraising efforts as the chair of the Membership and Operational Fundraising committee.

Personally, I am grateful for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the museum or one of our upcoming events.

Mona Babin  
President – Niagara Historical Society

# 2022 NHSM Finance Committee Report to the Annual General Meeting

September 30, 2022

## Committee Membership

- Ted Rumble (treasurer and chair)
- Sandra Aversa
- Alex Topps
- Sarah Kaufman (staff – Managing Director)
- Amy Klassen (staff - Director of Finance and Marketing)

## Meetings

The Finance Committee met four times, in January, March, May, and September

## Issues

The following issues were discussed and actions were taken.

## Capital Campaign Accounts

We set up a chequing account and a savings account for the Capital Campaign.

- This will allow us to keep operating funds and capital funds separate.

## Electronic Banking

Previously all banking was done on paper.

We subscribed to online banking at Meridian and are now able to . . .

- Transfer funds between our accounts
  - Maximizes interest income by keeping most of our funds in interest bearing savings account.
  - As interest rates rise, our interest income will increase.
- Send and receive e-transfers
  - More efficient and cheaper than mailing a cheque.
- Pay most of our bills online.

## Investment Policy

NHSM does not currently have an investment policy to guide future decisions.

We have researched this by speaking to other organizations and talking to experts in the field.

We are preparing a draft Investment Policy for consideration at the next Finance Committee meeting.

## Borrowing

NHSM does not currently have any loans or lines of credit.

We will need a LOC in order to bridge the cash flow gap during construction of the expansion.

The Committee is currently working to estimate the amount that we may have to borrow and when we will need it.

This is highly dependent upon assumptions, especially the timing of receiving donations (especially from the federal government) and when we put shovels in the ground.

We are also researching options with respect to security for such a LOC.

### Human Resources

- As we wanted to move increase our part-time employee's hours to full-time, the committee was asked about the financial impact.
- We determined that our current cash flow could support a full-ti salary for this employee.

### Staff Benefits

- We investigated adding dental and eye care coverage for our staff.
- The cost was found to be reasonable.
- This was felt to be important in the current competitive hiring environment.

### Allocation of Funds

The committee recommended to the board that surplus operating funds as well as one bequest be allocated to the Capital Campaign.

### Cash Position

As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, our current balances are:

	Chequing	Savings	Reserve
Operating	59,909	268,716	
Capital Campaign	4,387	310,539	
GIC			100,000*
Endowment Fund			20,750

\* at December 31, 2021 our total operating reserve was \$250,376, \$100,000 of which is in a GIC with the remainder in our savings account.

In 2021 we ran an operating surplus of \$83,228 which was transferred to the Capital Campaign. For 2022 we are projecting a surplus of \$127,000 mainly due to a very successful polo event and some additional COVID funding for operations.

### Budget

Amy prepared the budget for 2023 (attached) which was carefully reviewed by the committee and was passed by the Board.

The budget projects a small deficit of \$16,500 which is easily covered by the 2022 surplus.

## **Membership and Operational Fundraising Report AGM. October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Members:** George Webber (Chair), Audrey Pellett, Stewart Hall, Diana Adachi, Amy Klassen, Barbara Worthy, Mona Babin.

**Membership numbers:** The Committee launched some new membership levels this year including enhanced individual and enhanced dual options. The enhanced membership levels give you passes for friends and family, the ability to invite non-members to exhibit openings and discounts on some of our program tickets. Several members, new and returning, have chosen this option and have utilized the benefits. Along with an overall small increase to the cost of the other membership levels, this has increased membership revenue this year.

**Total Active Memberships: 490 representing 652 individuals**

- 147 Individual
- 29 Individual Enhanced
- 1 Student
- 126 Dual
- 24 Dual Enhanced
- 151 Life Member
- 12 Couple Life Members
- 57 members are in arrears

**Polo**

- Very successful as we raised just over \$60,000.00
- Thanks to Amy Klassen and her committee for all their hard work as well as all the sponsors and volunteers.

**History in the Vineyard partnership with The Friends of FORT GEORGE**

- Fundraiser scheduled for Wednesday November 30<sup>th</sup> at Ravine Winery
- Ticket pricing is \$150.00
- There will be historical talks, music, amazing food, silent auction and more
- Tickets will be available online – visit [www.notlmuseum.ca](http://www.notlmuseum.ca) for ticket link

**Loyalty Partners:** A Loyalty Partners program was developed this year. Eight local businesses have been added, each giving Niagara Historical Society members a 10% discount when presenting your membership card.

- Sweets and Swirls Café
- Driven Autoworkz
- Grape Escape Wine Tours
- The Grove
- Greaves
- Pieza Pizzeria
- Cheese Secrets
- Budapest Bake Shop

## NOTL MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Plant and Planning Committee AGM Report – 2022

Physical site visits were conducted with staff on the following dates;

January 15, 2022  
February 25, 2022  
March 9, 2022  
August 17, 2022

Mainly minor items noted during inspections and most have been corrected. Most notable repairs required are the shingle roof on the link building between the High School and Memorial Hall. We may be able to put this off until construction or possibly tarp it temporarily.

An Inspection request was made to NOTL Fire and Emergency Services since we had not had one done in several years. The inspection was completed on February 10<sup>th</sup> by Brad Disher, Fire Prevention Officer, and a list of deficiencies was provided to Sarah. I met with Sarah on site at the Museum on Friday February 25, 2022 to review the list of deficiencies. Most were minor in nature and as of March 11 all minor items have been addressed.

**Update:** Sarah made application through OFM Office that the fire separation requirement deadlines be extended to be included with our Expansion and renovation work. Reply from OFM received August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. The smaller fire separation items that require minimal drywall work, have a deadline for completion of September 26, 2022. The deadline for the fire separation remediation between the back wall of the furnace room and the crawl space under Memorial Hall has been extended to August 26, 2023.

Site review and inspection of facility on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, noted the following.

- A few shingles also missing on high school roof.
- Several lights are not functioning in attic in Memorial Hall. These are old T-12 fixtures that are very costly to repair and are not energy efficient. Recommendation is to change out these fixtures to L.E.D. Sarah will obtain quote.

Respectfully submitted

Jim McArthur  
Plant and Planning Committee Chair

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
GOVERNANCE REPORT - OCTOBER 2022**

For those of you new to the Board it is the responsibility of the Governance Committee to review our Constitution, By-Laws and Policies to make sure we are in compliance with any new regulations or changes that we have recently made. This past year we continued the cycle we started when I became Chair of the Committee.

This was an extremely busy year for the Board, so we did not accomplish as much as we had hoped, and it will remain for our newly appointed committee to carry on where we left off. Below I have summarized what we accomplished in the past year.

In past years we have had two policies for Research (Research Policy and Procedures, and Research and Reproduction Policy). The information contained in them was repetitive, so they have now been merged into one called Research Policy.

The Exhibition Policy had last been reviewed in 2015 and was in serious need of updating. COVID necessitated changes and the addition of virtual exhibits had to be taken into account for the future. Also added was more information concerning the policy for items on loan for other exhibits elsewhere. The policy now covers Exhibit Maintenance, Sponsorship and Off-Site Exhibits which would include the Tiny Museum.

While reviewing the Human Resources Policy, the committee felt that our Vacation Policy should be brought in line with more current practice in the business world. The information concerning vacation accrual and entitlement were therefore explained in detail.

The Archival Policy has been merged with Collections.

The Conservation Policy now includes recommendations from the Inclusion and Diversity Committee.

The Staff Training Policy had not been reviewed since 2011 so there was additional clarification needed in some areas.

Respectively submitted  
Judy Thornton  
Chair



## **REPORT OF THE PROJECT PLANNING & LOGISTICS COMMITTEE TO THE AGM OF THE NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY – OCT. 13, 2022**

The committee continued the planning and development of the project with focus on three major areas:

- Fulfilling the requirements for various Town permits
- Finalizing Project Timing
- Updating Cost Estimates including defining Soft Costs

### **1.0 FULFILLING REQUIREMENTS FOR TOWN PERMITS:**

Since the last AGM, the following steps in the municipal approval have been successfully completed:

- Municipal Heritage Permit (including the Temporary Construction Protection Plan) — Submitted September 16, 2021 and approved by Town Council November 22, 2021
- Site Plan Agreement — submitted September 16, 2021 and approved by Planning Department August 10, 2022. The formal text of the agreement is now awaiting execution by the Town's Chief Administrative Officer.

Approval steps in progress and yet to be approved include:

- Building Permit — required documentation in progress by the design team

### **2.0 PROJECT TIMING UPDATE**

The Site Plan Approval process, originally planned for completion by yearend 2021, took substantially longer than anticipated. The lingering effects of Covid on the Town's staffing resources contributed to this delay, as did several unexpected issues related to zoning, coverage, and engineering standards. As noted above, these issues have been resolved and execution of the Site Plan Agreement is pending.

These delays have resulted in a revised project schedule as follows:

- Building Permit — submission expected by mid-November 2022 and approved by mid-January 2023
- Tender — to be issued mid-February 2023 and completed by mid-April of 2023
- Construction — subject to obtaining various government grants and a successful fundraising campaign, we could be in a position to commence construction as early as May 2023.
- Completion and Re-opening — construction is expected to be complete by November 2024; commissioning and move-in complete by January 2025, re-opening celebrations Spring 2025.

### **3.0 PROJECTED COSTS**

The projected cost of the planned renovation and expansion has three principal elements:

- **Hard Construction Costs** — Recognizing that the cost estimate upon which our financial planning to date has been based has not been updated since 2019, the Committee commissioned Hooker Ltd., Quantity Surveyors, to update the Class A Construction Estimate. Completed in March 2022 — and assuming the build would begin in the fall of 2022 — the Hooker study projected hard costs, contingencies, and several post-estimate engineering additions to require 7.2M, an increase of roughly 1M.
- **Design Costs** — As the architectural contract had expired and the scope of the project had significantly evolved since the agreement was executed, it was necessary to re-negotiate the agreement with our design team. This change, plus the Town’s requirement for several additional sub-studies, raised the total design cost to 580K, an increase of roughly 137K.
- **Soft Costs** — Our allowances for items such as storage and display equipment; exhibit moving and off-site storage; bridge financing; insurance and legal fees; fundraising expenses; municipal development charges; planning approval fees, etc. have been more fully defined and are now estimated at 3.1M, a decrease of roughly 100K.

Considering all anticipated costs, the project estimate is now approximately 10.9M. Readers should be aware however, that the expected delay in construction by one year, and the currently high rate of inflation affecting all sectors of the economy will almost certainly raise this cost by tender time to values that cannot be accurately predicted at this time.

Alexander Topps  
Chair Project Planning and Logistics Committee

## Expansion Fundraising Committee Report AGM 2022

After accepting the early 2020 recommendation to conduct a \$5 million fundraising campaign in support of a \$10 million expansion and renovation project, the Committee has been working with Peter McKinley of Global Philanthropic Canada to execute the previously approved plan for the campaign.

We are currently in the quiet phase of the campaign and with the assistance of some key volunteers from the board and the community, have had numerous conversations with individual donors, companies, and governments. Many more relationships are in development as we move along in the process, and we continue to welcome ideas and connections from the community. Contact Sarah Kaufman if you would like to share ideas about supporting the campaign.

Since the beginning of their contract, Global Philanthropic Canada has completed the following reports/assessments:

- Space Naming Report
- Community interviews (41) and a Feasibility Study
- Fundraising Campaign Plan

A number of significant gifts from the community have already been committed, which will be celebrated at an appropriate time in the campaign timeline. This next year will see continued work to secure lead gifts to the campaign. Coupled with successful applications to federal granting entities, this will position the board favourably to proceed with the expansion and renovation project.

## Managing Director's Report - AGM 2022

### 2022 Niagara Advance Awards: Reader's Choice Awards

#1 (Diamond) Museum

#1 (Diamond) Kids Camp

#1 (Diamond) Summer Camp

### COVID

The Museum was closed starting January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 due to provincial restrictions. We were able to reopen as of February 3<sup>rd</sup> at our COVID hours of Thursday to Monday 1-5pm. In May we reopened at our regular hours of 10am-5pm daily.

### STRATEGIC PLAN:

Our strategic plan is moving along well. See the update document attached.

### EXHIBITIONS

#### Temporary exhibits: *All Along the Waterfront:*

Curated by Sarah and Shawna, this exhibit opened May 18<sup>th</sup>. The preservation of the world's most integral natural resource- water- is a significant international issue that has seen a resurgence amongst global youth. At a time when water levels in Niagara-on-the-Lake have continuously risen over several years, and the uncertainty of how it will affect our geography, our economy and general livelihoods can be alarming, this exhibition aims to raise awareness and understanding of how our waterways- the Niagara River and Lake Ontario- shaped the history of our community. It aims to raise awareness of Niagara-on-the-Lake's dependence and lasting relationship with our water so that we can continue to ensure its protection for future generations.

**Photographic Memory:** Curated by Shawna, this exhibition opened on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 and closed in April 2022. This exhibition was a display of photographs showing Niagara-on-the-Lake from 1945 until 1985. Our community has changed significantly since this time period, so many of the members and visitors enjoyed seeing the display and comparing the past and present images of our community.

**Virtual Exhibitions:** Find them here: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/niagara-historical-society-museum>

Exhibitions added since the last AGM include the [Niagara Apothecary](#) and the [8<sup>th</sup> World Boy Scouts Jamboree](#). One on the War of 1812 will be up by the end of the year.

From September 2021 to September 2022, we have had over 1000 views of these virtual exhibitions

#### **New student exhibitions in the upper gallery:**

Commemoration of the Battle of Queenston Heights

Ride On: Niagara's Cycling History

## **Student Exhibition at the entrance of Memorial Hall:**

Women's Institute: Celebrating 125 Years

Make sure to pop in and check them out!

## **MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

A **New Website** was launched last year: [www.notlmuseum.ca](http://www.notlmuseum.ca)

Our views from September 2021 to September 2022 since the last AGM are over 21,000.

This includes the general website, gift shop site and collections database.

The museum has also continued to maintain community awareness in the local newspapers through articles and advertisements about upcoming programs and events as well as featured weekly photographs.

We are working on our marketing plan to improve our communication in the community. As part of our contract with Global Philanthropic, one of their marketing experts was reviewing our outreach statistics. They found that our weekly e-blast newsletters had a 70% open rate which they determined to be very high!

**Attendance:** Museum attendance from September 2021 to September 2022 was 7,298. This is significantly higher than the 2,682 from last year but is still not near the pre-COVID levels of over 10,000 visitors. We must remember that we were still closed last year for much of the year.

### **Social Media:**

[Twitter:](#) 2,561 followers, a 4% increase from 2021.

[Facebook:](#) 2,662 followers, a 10% increase from 2021

[Instagram:](#) 1,352 followers, an 19% increase from 2021

[YouTube:](#) 245 subscribers, an 54% increase from 2021.

[TikTok](#) 39 followers, a 39% from 2021.

Staff also take the time to stay informed on other Facebook groups from home and respond to posts that pertain to the history in NOTL. A special thank you to all staff for really stepping up and taking the lead on our social media postings and keeping the online community engaged!

## **PROGRAMS, EVENTS & OUTREACH**

**FREE IN FEBRUARY:** As we have in previous years, we offered free admission for Niagara residents throughout the month of February. This has been successful in the past with bringing in new visitors from the community and other parts of the region. We had 140 visitors

**Black History Month:** Since Niagara Parks and the Ontario Black Historical Society both did a lecture series for February, we decided not to compete. We focused on promoting our new black history mini documentary, the Voices of Freedom Tour locations and collections/research information.

**Our in-person lectures included**

May: Robert Mazza, *C&C Yachts*

June: Owen Bjorgen (local conservationist), *NOTL's Waterfront- Worry and Wonder*

July: Travis Hill, Niagara Parks, *Indigenous relationship with the river*

September: Terry Boulton, *Destroyed: Commercial Fishing in Niagara, 1830s – 1955*

Sponsored by **Geoffrey and Lorraine Joyner.**

**2021 Online lecture series**

This online series was very well-received by the members and the community. Find the recordings from the last season here: [NOTL Museum Lecture Recordings - YouTube](#)

*Fall 2021 series*

October 6	Dena Doroszenko	<i>Archaeology of the Niagara Apothecary and Niagara-on-the-Lake's Rich History</i>
October 20	Kathleen Powell	<i>Triumph and Tragedy: Building the Welland Ship Canal</i>
November 3	Jane Thomas, Laura Heidman & Daniel Laxer, Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs	<i>Treaties and Land Claims in Ontario</i>
November 17	Peter Mulcaster	<i>A Railway History of Niagara-on-the-Lake 1854–1959</i>
December 1	Sarah Kaufman	<i>Opening the Curator's Treasure Chest: Exploring the War of 1812 Collection PART 2</i>
December 15	Rochelle Bush	<i>The Lesser Known: Uncovering some of the Black people of Old Niagara and the surrounding area</i>

**Theatrical Cemetery Tours:** We are bringing these tours back! Tickets are on sale for the tours at St. Mark's Church: October 20-22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm and 7:30pm. Characters include Henry Paffard, Matilda Boulton, Catherine Claus, Robert Melville, Fanny Rowley, Joe Masters and the Gravedigger.

**Poppy Display and the Poppy Brigade:** A display of knitted and crocheted poppies went up on our building November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 with the help of our brigade volunteers, Davy Tree (donated time) and Babs. St. Davids Lions Club also supported the project with a small donation to

material costs. The local Legion provided their blessing for the project. The Rangers youth Club in the community also came to assist with attaching the poppies to the bird netting. We have received nothing but positive feedback about the display. Every day we had many visitors coming to see and photograph the poppies. All the local newspapers, the St. Catharines Standard and the Toronto Star documented it. We were also on Global TV National News. The project will expand this year to include the Courthouse, light posts along King Street, wreaths on some of the shop doors on Queen Street and veterans' names in the poppy garden at the Museum. The display will be up November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Walking Tours:** Private tours and our Neighbourhood Walks returned this year and our weekend summer tours were back on from June to September. Our total participants since last year were 359 participants. This is significantly higher than the 47 participants last year. The Neighbourhood walks in May sold out immediately. The themes were Chautauqua, The Commons, The Waterfront, and Voices of Freedom Black History.

**Kid Curators:**

The first week, July 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, was cancelled. We didn't secure a Programming Assistant in time and our registration numbers were lower than August. We decided to do one week instead: August 15<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a sports theme where the children learned about games played in the summer: soccer, cricket, polo, etc. They enjoyed some offsite adventures with Paddle Niagara, Owen's Hiking Adventures, and the Canada Summer Games. There were 12 participants and 2 staff.

**Community Courtyard**

We rented a tent again for the summer in the courtyard. Visitors enjoy using the space for their own enjoyment and could access the free Wi-Fi. We also hosted a **Queen's Jubilee Tea on August 26<sup>th</sup>** in partnership with the Friends of Fort George. Guests enjoyed tea and sweets, a tea tasting by a tea sommelier and a talk on the Queen's jubilee. We also hosted **Outdoor Yoga** with Sacred Fern Yoga on Wednesday mornings. It was consistently full with a waitlist.

**Past is Present Heritage Festival**

We celebrated our heritage on the August long weekend this year with 300 guests in attendance. The event included live music, food, vendors, and heritage demonstrators. We made a profit of approximately \$2,933 raised from the treasures and ephemera tables.

**Book Launch**

Local author, Terry Boulton launched his new book "Destroyed: Commercial Fishing in Niagara" at the Museum this year

**Seniors Centre Without Walls**

The City of St. Catharines reached out to get some speakers for their seniors' program. Seniors can call in on a particular day and listen over the phone to a presentation. This is geared to those who do not use computers. We were happy to provide 5 lectures for this program.

## **MONA Scavenger Hunt**

A Canada Summer Games Scavenger Hunt was held in partnership with the Museums of Niagara Association (MONA). It included several different missions across four communities in the Niagara Region where you find the answers to questions about sport history, local sites and our museums. The hunt was on from August 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> and it was free to play on the GooseChase app.

**2021-2022 Mini-docs** on NOTL history: We launched three short documentaries exploring Niagara-on-the-Lakes rich history, from Black History to our fruit farming past to the heritage of our waterfront industries, at the end of 2021. Funded by the Niagara Investment in Culture (Niagara Region Grant) and Niagara Community Foundation:

View them here:

[Black History - A Hidden History](#)

[Fruit & Farming in Niagara: A History of Dirt & Diesel](#)

[All Along the Waterfront: A History of the Waterfront Industries](#)

## **Famous and infamous**

We brought back this free program that discusses the life and times of individuals from history. Thank you to David Murray and Elizabeth Surtees for organizing this program.

25 APRIL: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN by TED RUMBLE

23 MAY: SOMERSET MAUGHAM by LINDA FRITZ

27 JUNE: LORENZO DI PIERO DE' MEDICI by SUZANNE HEBERT

25 JULY: SIMON BOLIVAR by MICHAEL CLARK

22 AUGUST: SIR ROGER CASEMENT by RICHARD FICEK

26 SEPTEMBER: MAJ. GEN. ROGER HALE SHEAFFE by JULIAN RANCE

24 OCTOBER: BESS OF HARWICK by SHEILA HILL

28 NOVEMBER: KIM PHILBY by GUS CALDERONE

This program will continue into the new year so stay tuned for the schedule!

**Tiny Museum update:** It has been a rocky start due to COVID but the educational programming has been completed for schools. We're waiting on permission to get into schools. In the meantime, we brought the TM to community events this year and displayed various exhibitions.

The Tiny Museum hosted over 4,700 visitors over the year! The Tiny Museum attended the following events: Canada Day at Fort George, the Cherry Festival, NOTLM's Heritage Festival, 13 for 13 Event for the Canada Summer Games at Simcoe Park, Peach Festival and Niagara Polo! We also partnered with the Pillar and Post to host it in their garden near the Outpost café. We were unable to track the number of visitors but the Manager was pleased! We look forward to having it back in the new year.

Next event: Education Day for the Battle of Queenston Heights with the Friends of Fort George, October 14th.



### **Tiny Museum: Brock University Partnership**

We partnered with Associate Professor Elizabeth Vlossak (Dept of History), to have her students create exhibitions for our Tiny Museum. The theme was sports history in NOTL. The students focused on Tennis, Golf, Sailing, and lawn bowling. Shawna helped the students with their research as well as teaching them about writing exhibition text and designing panels. The display was featured at Brock University in December and for the Town's Canada Summer Games event, "13 for 13", in August.

### **SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG):** Our annual operating grant with the province for \$15,355.

**Ontario Building Communities Grant- Operating (Ontario Trillium Foundation):** Started in October 2021, this funding allowed us to hire a contract staff person to digitize the collection so we can make it accessible online for the community and worldwide researchers! Funding received: \$ 45,300

**Young Canada Works (YCW) students:** Funding to hire one summer student this year. See below for more detail under 'STAFF'.

**2021-22 YCW intern:** We applied to the federal Young Canada Works internship program to hire someone to start packing the collection in anticipation of our move during the expansion/renovation project.

**Reconnect Ontario:** \$15,207 to support the Niagara Polo event.

**New Horizons for Seniors:** \$3,500 to expand the NOTL Poppy Project to include the courthouse and King Street. Grant covers supplies & materials and some marketing.

### **STAFF**

**Students:** We hired 2 summer students this year, both from Brock University. Paige Groot was our Curatorial Assistant which was funded by Young Canada Works. She worked on digitizing the collection, completing 3 temporary exhibitions, and assisting with Kids Camp. Paige, was featured in Brock News. Read the article here: <https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2022/08/brock-students-museum-work-shines-light-on-niagaras-history/>

We couldn't fill the second YCW position, so the grant increased its coverage of the first position. As a result, we hired Bear Lyu who is an international student in the History Department at Brock. Bear worked on digitizing the collection, social media posts, front desk customer service, inventorying our educational collection and translating our museum brochure into Chinese.

We hired Kate Smolinski under the YCW Intern funding from December to March to work on packing the collection in anticipation of our move.

**Contract Positions:** Katelynn, our contract Digitization Assistant through the Trillium Foundation, spent the year digitizing and describing our collection. The increase in our digitization numbers can be credited to her (see below). She also presented a lecture on the Apothecary collection and created 3 Google Arts Exhibitions for the Museum.

### **MUNICIPAL RELATIONS**

The Town was very generous to maintain their support towards our operating costs this year. We also approached the Town for support towards our capital campaign. They agreed to commit to \$500,000 (\$100,000 per year)! We are very pleased to have their support

### **COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH REPORT 2021**

Since the last AGM in October 2021, we have had 23 donors with 76 items donated.

Highlights to the collection include:

- Norm Howe's aviator's cap from the Second World War
- Manuscript of Launcelot Servos' "The Professional Golfer" book
- Public School photos
- Evans/Matthews/Parker/Greaves family archives
- 1916 Garden Party photos from Randwood
- Ephemera related to the Gamma Sigma Fraternity
- Painting of Servos House by Margaret Peake Benton
- Telegram
- Certificate for Jean Campbell 1917 service for the N.P. Fruit Growers Assn (farmerette)

Further, we received the Jim Smith photographic collection that will take some time to process through due to the size of the collection.

We are always looking for new and exciting pieces of Niagara-on-the-Lake history, especially for Queenston, St. Davids, Virgil, McNab and Homer, where we are currently lacking. **We are also looking for records to demonstrate your experiences during COVID.**

Since the last AGM the Museum has deaccessioned approximately 100 items from the collection that are unrelated to NOTL or are duplicates. Items have been transferred to more appropriate Museums or will be sold through an external auction company with funds returning to the collections budget.

The Museum is continuously working on the **digitization** of our collection through photographing objects and scanning archives. As of today, we have 18,086 items in our collection are digitized (34%) and, of that, 4,999 items are on our online collections database! With the assistance of Katelynn under the Trillium grant, we should have another 2,500 items online soon. Permanent staff just need to review the descriptions before they are uploaded.

## Research

From September 2021 to September 2022, the Museum has responded to and helped with approximately 80 research inquiries. We are also constantly improving our online resources which can be found here: <https://www.notlmuseum.ca/research>

Our **Museum Blog also features research by our members and staff**: Make sure to check out our blog every month for a new post! [Blog - Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum \(notlmuseum.ca\)](https://www.notlmuseum.ca/blog)

## OTHER:

**Volunteers:** A special thank you to our 100 volunteers. They take part in all aspects of our operation from collections to special events to maintenance. We nominated 6 volunteers for the 2022 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

Steven Baxter – 15 years

Judy Thornton- 10 years

Rene Bertschi – 5 years

Gail Santsche- 15 years

George Dell – 5 years

Peggy Bell—25 years

**NOTL Ambassador Program:** We joined the Advisory Committee for this tourism-oriented community group to help with planning. They also visited the Museum to learn more about us and about our local history!

**New Museum Signage:** The Museum mounted a new sign outside our buildings with the new logo. There is also a new sign located at the corner of King and Castlereagh Street.

## Community Donations:

We have donated \$500 to the Cenotaph Restoration Project.

We have donated \$600 to the St. Marks Cemetery Stones Restoration Project to cover the costs of restoring Elizabeth Kerr's stone. She was in our Making her Mark book. See the information below.

## Elizabeth Kerr

1762-1794

**Elizabeth (Brant Johnson) Kerr** was born in 1762 at Fort Johnson in the Mohawk Valley of New York State. Her father was **Sir William Johnson** a fur trader and merchant who prospered economically and politically by forming close bonds with the Iroquois and was the first superintendent of Indian Affairs. He was one of the richest men in the colony. Her mother was **Mollie Brant** a Mohawk leader in British New York and Upper Canada in the era of the American Revolution. Molly Brant is honoured as a Person of National Historic Importance. Elizabeth's uncle was **Joseph Brant** a Mohawk military and political leader who rose to prominence because of his education, abilities, and connections to British officials. She married **Dr. Robert Kerr** who had arrived in Quebec in 1776 as a Hospital Mate with the British army. He became surgeon to the 2nd Battalion of Sir John Johnson's King's Royal Regiment of New York. The Kerr family lived in a fine house that was destroyed in the town during of 1813, but was replaced by what we now know as Demeath, at 69 Prideaux. In 1823 he moved to Albany, N.Y. and died there the following February at the age of 69.

Fate has been kind to Elizabeth's monument and now that it has been cleaned and straightened it is a significant memorial to a significant lady. In this period almost all monuments were of limestone while Elizabeth's is of marble, probably Italian. It's a very special Kerr monument for its time and doubtless costly.



**MID-RESTORATION  
INDICATES HOW MUCH OF  
THE TAIL OF THE STONE  
WAS BURIED**



## Nominating Committee 2022 Recommendations

The Niagara Historical Society's Nominating Committee, comprising David Hemmings (Chair), John Sayers, and Lorraine Joyner, have interviewed three candidates for the Board position being vacated by Judy Thornton; Sarah Kaufman also attended these interviews. The Committee unanimously agreed that Laurie Harley be recommended for the membership approval at our AGM in October 2022, and there be a "motion to appoint Laurie Harley to the Board of the Society for a three-year term, effective immediately." Her short-form bio is attached

After additional discussions with our present Board members, the Committee also recommends the following for 2022-23:

President - Mona Babin	Director - Paul Harber
Vice President - Alexander Topps	Director - Tim Johnson
Treasurer - Sandra Aversa	Director - Jim McArthur
Secretary - Ted Rumble	Director - Gil Mukkar
Director - Ben A. Buholtz	Director - George Webber
Director - Stewart Hall	Nominated Director - Laurie Harley

David F. Hemmings, Chair 2022-2023 Nominating Committee

### LAURIE HARLEY'S PROFILE

Laurie is an experienced executive with a career that spans over 30 years. Her corporate roles with a large, multi-national technology company ranged from Marketing to Human Resources, to Leadership Development, to Government Relations. After retiring from the corporate world, she launched a second career as Managing Director of a niche global consulting firm focused on diversity, equity and inclusion. As a pioneer "mobile retiree" she delved into volunteer work as the founder of the "Muskoka Women's Connection" a networking group that grew from 12 career women on 2004 to over 200 in 2007 when she relocated to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Since then, she has engaged in volunteer opportunities including mentorship in the Leadership Niagara Program, the Niagara 50+ initiative, the Board of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital Auxiliary where she served as President from 2010 to 2012, and the Board of Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service. She joined the Shaw Guild in 2013 and has served on the Executive Committee for 9 years as Activities Chair, Vice President, President and Past President. During her two-year term as President, Laurie was a member of the Shaw Festival's Board of Directors and Board of Governors. Her most recent community initiative involved researching, designing and delivering a unique Ambassador Program for Niagara-on-the-Lake. Leading a volunteer team and working closely with Tourism NOTL, the Town of NOTL, and tourism partners, 2022 saw the launch of a 50-volunteer force dedicated to greeting visitors and turning every encounter into an extraordinary experience.

Laurie continues on a "self-directed sabbatical" leading to opportunities that bring challenge, renew energy and keep the "fun" in volunteering.