



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ **Dec 2 & 3:** Rotary Holiday House Tour (Selfies with Santa on Dec 3rd from 11 am - 1 pm)
- ♦ **Dec 7:** Doc Club on Zoom, 10 am
- ♦ **Dec 13:** Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, 10am - 12 pm
- ♦ **Dec 18 - Jan 1:** Museum Closed for the holidays
- ♦ **Jan 23:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ♦ **Feb 1:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ♦ **Feb 8:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ♦ **Feb 15:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ♦ **Feb 22:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ♦ **Feb 27:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm

Note: Our Annual Members Trivia Night will be held in March 2023 instead of February.

A special thank you to Niagara Holiday Rentals for being a Corporate Sponsor in 2022. This donation supports the Museum's operating costs in exchange for admission for Niagara Holiday Rental guests.

Niagara HOLIDAY RENTALS

LOCAL LOYALTY PARTNERS

The Board's Membership & Operational Fundraising Committee reached out to local businesses this year to develop a Loyalty Partners program for you, our members! Nine businesses joined in our first year to offer discounts to members. They promote us at their registers, we promote them through our channels, and we pass the savings along to you!

To get your discount, simply show your membership card when you make purchases at the businesses below. If you cannot find your card, please contact the Museum and we will get you a replacement.

The Board plans to expand the program and wants to ensure they are partnering with businesses that are of interest to our members. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact any of the Museum staff and we will pass along your suggestions.

Our Current Loyalty Partners are:

- Driven Autoworkz Detailing - facebook.com/DrivenAutoworkz
- Greaves Jams - greavesjams.com
- Sweets & Swirls Café - facebook.com/sweetsandswirlscafe
- Pie'ZA Pizzeria - piezapizzeria.com
- Grape Escape Wine Tours - touriagarawineries.com
- The Grove - thegroveniagara.com
- Cheese Secrets - cheesesecrets.com
- Budapest Bakeshop - budapestbakeshop.com
- Van Noort Flower Studio - vannoortflowerstudio.com

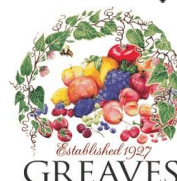
grape escape
wine tours

THE GROVE

CHEESE SECRETS



van noort flower studio



BUDAPEST BAKESHOP
— CHIMNEY CAKES —

happening at the museum

December Doc Club

Participants watch the documentaries in their own time, and join monthly zoom meetings for often hilarious, sometimes heated, but always informative debates.

Wednesday December 7: *The Mystery of Marilyn Monroe – The Unheard Tapes*

Newly restored tapes reveal more about the tragic death of this legendary icon.

To join the Doc Club, email bworthy@nhsm.ca



"The Graveyard Shift"
pictured above: Pam Mundy, Jan King-Watson, Rick Meloen, Judy Thornton, Steve Steele and Guy Bannerman, and right: Tony Chisholm. Thanks to these volunteers for their invaluable contribution to our annual Theatrical Cemetery Tours at St. Mark's Church.



FAMOUS & INFAMOUS 2023:

Monthly Biography Discussion Group | 2 pm

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
January 23	Dave Sydor	Sam Phillips
February 27	Linda Fritz	Sam Weir
March 27	Suzanne Hebert	Ivan the terrible
April 24	Diana Kendall	CS Lewis
May 22	Victoria Wisdom	Dante
June 26	Craig Tallman	Gavro Principe
July 24	Betsy Masson	Pamela Digby Churchill Harriman
August 28	Richard Ficek	The Rosenbergs
September 25	Michael Clark	George McCullagh
October 23	Paulette Kennedy	Alex Humboldt
November 27	Julian Rance	Dame Cicely Saunders

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

At the AGM on October 13th, we welcomed new Board Member Laurie Harley who comes with great experience from the Shaw Guild and the NOTL Ambassadors. We said goodbye to Judy Thornton who had finished her term on the board. A huge thank you to Judy for all of the hard work she put in on the Board and for her continued work as a volunteer. For a full version of the minutes from the 2022 AGM, please visit our website at www.notlmuseum.ca/members.

POPPY REPORT 2022

Our 2022 Poppy Project has attracted hundreds of visitors to the NOTL Museum on Castlereagh Street and the NOTL Courthouse on Queen Street, all paying their respects to the fallen of two world wars. The additional installation on Queen Street this year also provided a fitting backdrop to the November 11th Remembrance Day service.

Volunteers began knitting, crocheting, and sewing the brilliant red poppies during the cold months of last winter, some while travelling, others happy to keep busy at home. Soon boxes and bags of finished poppies began arriving, wild grape vines were being coaxed into wreaths, and gradually the basement and every corner of the Museum was filled with poppies. By the time the now legendary Poppy Brigade



began their weekly meetings in September, volunteers had created more than 4000 poppies.

For 2022 we also added to the Poppy Garden in front of the Museum, showing names, rank, birth and death dates, of all those who are memorialized on local cenotaphs in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



The amount of detail and dedication to this project is profound and humbling. The ten thousand zip ties, 400 square feet of bird netting, the nearly 400 ft of steel cabling, plus pipes, clamps, clippers, and more than 30 heart-strong volunteers, all contributed to a stunning display of remembrance. And despite the more than a thousand hours of pure 'hand-labour', this project continues to inspire and create a sense of true community spirit.

A sincere thank you to everyone.

Yvonne Causer, Barbara Webber, Babs Worthy and Nancy Macri installing the Courthouse poppies.



2023 VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

FEBRUARY 1 - MARCH 8
Wednesdays at 11 am on Zoom
Lectures TBA in January 2023



HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Museum will be closed from December 18 to January 1 for the holidays. Staff will check email and voicemail periodically.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's "dock area" was Once a Marshland

There has been a lot of discussion recently with the Niagara River waterfront area flooding annually and creating several water issues for residents or businesses within the area. Unfortunately, this area has a long history of flooding every year dating back to its time as a marshland.

Prior to the 1830s, the area from King Street to just past the current Navy Hall was formerly a marsh that flooded annually, creating a haven for mosquitos and the like. The mosquitos in the woods of early Niagara were bad enough but this marshy, even swamp-like area, was even worse! Joy Ormsby, former Town historian, found in her research that there was a local belief at the time that there was a heavy "vapour" that exuded from the marsh which produced ague, a form of malaria, which caused periodic fits of shaking and high fevers. Many members of Lt-Governor John Graves Simcoe's entourage complained about the area. Early settler, Hannah Jarvis of Queenston, even wrote in her journal (a link to which you can find on the Museum's website) that several families would catch a fever from it and "would be confined at once altogether". Peter Russell, a former Lieutenant Governor

and administrator in Niagara, mentioned that "all his servants were sick with ague and his sister, Elizabeth was obliged to cook dinner". It sounds like Peter was not a fan of his sister's cooking! Many locals at the time believed the best remedy was a teaspoon of Peruvian bark (from the Cinchona tree) in a glass of brandy. No doubt the spirits offered some temporary relief, but it was likely the quinine in the tree bark that really did the trick. (Quinine is a medicine used to treat malaria.) Later in the 19th century it was realized that it was the mosquitos, not the vapours, that were to blame!

There was very little development in this area due to the marshland. This is likely why even the great Elizabeth Simcoe decided to stay in her tent on the high ground rather than living in the Navy Hall buildings when she first arrived. Taking a look at early maps or drawings of Niagara you would see the marshy land described. Even driving along the area, or down the river by boat, today you can easily see the incline to the high ground around the dock area of Town.

It wasn't until 1832, when the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company acquired the land that the area began to look more similar to what we see today. They pumped out the marshy water with a steam engine and later dredged the land to create a basin that would be excavated 18 feet

Continued on page 5...



Print of the mouth of the Niagara River from the ramparts of Fort George. An illustration from Picturesque Canada, circa 1882. To the left of the illustration is St. Vincent de Paul Church, towards the right of centre is the dock area and the far right shows Fort Niagara.

President's Report

Hello Everyone,
It's beginning to look a lot like.... WINTER!

In Canada, we are fortunate to have 4 great seasons. Each one offers its own special highlights... New plant life in the spring, warm weather in the summer, amazing produce in the fall, and snow in the winter! Of course, each season has its holidays, and we all have our favourites.

This year is more special than ever. Over the last three years our attention has been (understandably) focused on COVID-19 and staying safe. Now, as we continue to be mindful of our safety, we are able to mingle more and enjoy time with family and friends.

With that in mind, I have been very fortunate to work on the "History in the Vineyard" events with an amazing

group of people. A special shout out goes to Amy Klassen (Director of Finance & Marketing, NOTL Museum), Tony Chisholm (President, Friends of Fort George), Amanda Gamble (Executive Director, Friends of Fort George), and Paul Harber (Owner, Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery). For the first time in 3 years, we were able to have an IN PERSON event!

Whatever your plans are for the winter (celebrating special holidays, getting together with family and friends, travelling, playing winter sports), enjoy every day and, if you have a few minutes to spare, plan a visit to the NOTL Museum!

On behalf of the staff and the Board of Directors, I wish you a very happy new year. May 2023 bring you, your friends, and your family, health, peace, and joy.

Take care,
Mona Babin
President of the Niagara Historical Society

Continued from page 4

lower than the water of the Niagara River. Local papers of the time claimed the dredging costs to be about £1,000 pounds.

This new basin would provide winter refuge from the weather and the ice of the Niagara River for ships on Lake Ontario. The Niagara Harbour and Dock company would not only build several of Lake Ontario's early ships but also provided docking, wharfage facilities, and repair work. A number of their account books still survive and are held in the Museum's collection. Due to a number of reasons the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company failed in the 1860s. Our current exhibition titled *All Along the Waterfront* includes more on this company and this special history of our community.

Local newspaper, The Gleaner, said it best in 1832, "Whatever may be the profits ultimately to the Company, it will be a benefit and an ornament to this delightful town; the marsh which was a nuisance will thus be converted, part to a fine basin for vessels and the remainder a fine dry place to build stores or dwelling houses."

- Sarah Kaufman, Managing Director

Membership Renewal:

To all current members, past members, and aspiring members, please note that we are now taking membership renewals for 2023.

We offer a full range of options, from individual memberships to dual households, with a variety of enhanced options. We are happy to receive your memberships online, in person, or through the mail.

Please see full membership options and benefits on our website: <https://www.notlmuseum.ca/members>

Your membership to the Museum is a powerful tool that helps us preserve the rich heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and we appreciate everyone of you – all 500 + members. Thank you.

Looking for a gift for a history lover in your life? Why not give the gift of membership to the NOTL Museum!

COLLECTIONS CORNER

I know...I know...no one wants to hear the dreaded word COVID after all these years. But after two years of asking our community to hold on to items about individual experiences during the pandemic, we finally have some donations coming through the door!

This year we have collected musical instruments from "The Pandemaniacs", a band that emerged in the Garrison Village. This group started by banging pots and pans for healthcare workers nightly at 7:30 pm, and slowly, instruments like drums and ukuleles made their way into the mix. Eventually, this band formed, and they played nightly to show their support for frontline workers and to get a bit of socialization (while distancing) during the lockdowns. We were lucky to get a donation of some of the musical instruments like bongos, tambourines, and drumsticks to help tell this wonderful story of a neighbourhood coming together and supporting one another during such difficult times.

A NOTL resident also donated their Niagara Region Public Health COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Volunteer T-Shirt and lanyard. From March 2021-March 2022, 128 volunteers from the Niagara Region dedicated 20,200+ hours towards helping vaccinate those who wished to obtain their COVID-19 vaccinations. This t-shirt will be preserved so that we can one day tell the story of COVID-19 vaccinations.

We also picked up some paper cranes, an initiative developed by the Niagara PumpHouse, to honour the region's healthcare workers. And yes, even the Museum donates to itself sometimes - we contributed social distancing and handwashing signs!

If you would like to donate community art, posters that thank frontline workers, protest signs, photographs of blocked playgrounds, school lesson plans, physical distancing signs, your perfected sourdough recipe, Zoom meeting screenshots, and other items that relate to your experience over the last couple of years, please reach out to us! We're still proactively collecting this material because, even 50-100 years from now, it will be used to tell the story of our community's experience during a pandemic, much like the Spanish Flu material was 100 years later in 2020.

- Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator & Educational Programmer



NEW IN THE MUSEUM SHOP

The NOTL Museum shop is a great place to buy gifts for the holidays. We have a selection of new Christmas items currently in stock and some of our spring and summer inventory is on sale up to 50% off!

We also recently received a large donation of used books from the personal library of one of our members. There is a great selection of both non-fiction and fiction and most are in wonderful shape. Hardcover are only \$3.00 each and paperback \$2.00 each.

Come by and do some Christmas shopping while also supporting the Museum. Members get 10% off all items except the used books.

Pictured left: Two of the Museum's wonderful garden volunteers received "Garden Hero" awards from the Communities in Bloom Committee and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Congratulations to both David Livett and Peggy Bell!

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

2022 was a great year for the Museum considering the circumstances we have all faced due to COVID-19. We were happy to see our admission numbers not only meet, but surpass what we saw in 2019! Many residents and visitors were happy to come and see the Museum once we were able to reopen to our normal daily hours.

Our Tiny Museum made wonderful headway with community outreach this year. It travelled to several events during its first year out and hosted 4,700 visitors! We look forward to travelling our mobile museum around the community again in 2023.

We are excited to announce that our book *Making Her Mark: The Women of NOTL* won the Ontario Museum Association award for Excellence in Publications this year! Congratulations to all the authors and to the Publications Committee on this achievement. It was hard work but we made something special, together, by which I hope all women, especially young women of Niagara, will be inspired! (Shawna Butts and Sarah Kaufman pictured above with the award)

With our push towards becoming more digital, we used the Building Communities Fund of the Ontario Trillium Foundation to continue digitizing the collection. The process is extremely time consuming, but we were able to double the percentage of the collection that is digitized to 35%. This is very helpful as we continue to increase the amount of the collection found on our online Collections database. It is a long road but eventually we hope to have a majority of the collection digitized in a few years. This grant also gave us the opportunity to create three new virtual exhibitions on Google Arts and Culture: [Town of Niagara through the War of 1812](#), [Niagara Apothecary](#) and the [8th World Boy Scouts Jamboree](#).

Thank you all for supporting the NOTL Museum this year. Slowly, but surely, we will get back on track after the temporary stall from COVID-19. I look forward to seeing you at all the events we have planned for 2023!

- Sarah Kaufman



All Along the
Waterfront

EXHIBITION HELD OVER TO
SPRING 2023!

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mona Babin, President
George Webber, Vice President
Ted Rumble, Treasurer
Alexander Topps, Secretary
Paul Harber
Jim McArthur
Tim Johnson
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HONORARY LIFE SUPPORTERS

Joy Ormsby
Dr. Richard Merritt
Christopher Allen
Robert Knight
Nancy Butler

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Due in January each year
New rates as of January 1, 2022

Individual: \$35
Individual Enhanced: \$50
Dual: \$60
Dual Enhanced: \$85
Student: \$15
Individual Life: \$300
Couple Life: \$500

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Coordinator
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MUSEUM HOURS

MAY TO OCTOBER: 10 AM TO 5 PM DAILY
NOVEMBER TO APRIL: 1 PM TO 5 PM DAILY

The Museum is closed: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Closed December 18 - 31.



NHS Mission Statement

We are a team of staff & volunteers that passionately collects, preserves, researches, educates and promotes the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake and its communities. We inspire an appreciation of local history through engaging programs and exhibitions.

www.notlmuseum.ca