



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **June 9:** Drive-Thru Pop-Up Pig Roast, 4 - 6 pm
- ◆ **July 16:** Outdoor Yoga in the Courtyard 9 am
- ◆ **July 23:** Outdoor Yoga in the Courtyard 9 am
- ◆ **July 30:** Outdoor Yoga in the Courtyard 9 am
- ◆ **August 2:** Treasure's Sale and Pig Roast, 11 am - 2 pm
- ◆ **August 6:** Outdoor Yoga in the Courtyard 9 am
- ◆ **August 7:** Walking tours begin - Saturdays & Sundays in August and September, 11 am
- ◆ **August 13:** Outdoor Yoga in the Courtyard 9 am
- ◆ **August 20:** Outdoor Yoga in the Courtyard, 9 am

All programs and events are subject to change. We are monitoring the COVID rules and restrictions to determine what is allowed. Our online calendar will be updated regularly on notlmuseum.ca when new events are announced.

The Community Courtyard

The Museum was recently awarded the Government of Canada's Healthy Communities Initiative. The funds from this award are being used to enhance our courtyard in front of the Museum, and to help create a space for visitors to use as an orientation and waiting area. Also, when restrictions are lifted, it will be an ideal space for outdoor programming, where we can expand our capacity for socially distanced meetings.

Last year we learned that our interior meeting spaces were limited and made social distancing difficult, and weather severely inhibited our usable outdoor space.

The Federal funding has enabled us to install a large tent over the Courtyard, creating a usable, friendly, protected "Community Courtyard". Free Wi-Fi will be available and additional benches and garbage/recycling receptacles have been purchased for the space.

The "Community Courtyard" will be available for members and visitors, whether or not they are visiting the Museum. But on a hot sunny day, or if there's a bit of rain, the tent will offer a safe waiting area. It will also provide another public space that visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake can enjoy when Queen Street and our parks are busy.

As soon as restrictions are lifted we will begin outdoor programming. So please check our website for updates. The tent will remain in our "Community Courtyard" until the end of October 2021.

So, we hope to see you over the summer! Grab a coffee and meet a friend, enjoy the garden while reading a book, or come by to chat with Museum staff because we miss you!



happening at the museum



PigOut Catering

DRIVE-THRU POP-UP PIG ROAST

supporting the
Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum

Wed. June 9 | 4 - 6 pm

Drive-Thru pick up at :
Trinity Lutheran Church
2027 Niagara Stone Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake

3 Choices - \$10 each
Pork on a Bun with a side of slaw
OR Pulled Pork Parfait
OR Pulled Jackfruit Parfait

Pre-order online at:
notlmuseumshop.square.site

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS HERE!

We have launched a new website for the Museum!
We hope that everyone will find it easier to navigate and
find our resources. Visit us today at

NOTLMUSEUM.CA

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

We'd like to say a big thank you to all our members who dutifully sent back our recent membership survey.

Your feedback was excellent and extremely positive. All of your comments have been compiled and our membership committee will create a report of recommendations as to how we can enhance your membership benefits.

Most of all the high level of participation was extremely useful. Your feedback was received with gratitude. And your continued support and generosity in these times encourages all of us that we are on the same journey.

- Babs Worthy, Member & Visitor Services Assistant

IN MEMORIAM

John Rednall (March 3, 2021) - John was a long-time member of the Niagara Historical Society, a supporter of heritage and a lover of history. He will be greatly missed at the Museum.

Tree Planted in Memory of Diane Hemmings



Thank you to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Communities in Bloom Committee who donated a new tree for the Museum's gardens in memory of Diane Hemmings.

The tree is a 'Vanilla Twist Weeping Redbud' (*Cercis canadensis*) and honours all the work Diane did on the committee and for the community in general.

All events are subject to change based on provincial restrictions related to COVID-19

OUTDOOR YOGA IN THE COURTYARD

Fridays | July 16, 23, 30 | August 6, 13, 20

BY DONATION @ Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, 43 Castlereagh Street

Join Sonya Marie de Lazzer (RYT 200) for a gentle morning Hatha yoga practice; a mindful and meditative approach to opening the day, and the body, with softness. All levels welcome. Please bring your own mat and props (props optional). Weather permitting. Space is limited.

www.sacredfernyoga.com | notlmuseum.ca

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MUSEUM | 905-468-3912

9:00am -
10:15am



NOTL MUSEUM

TREASURES SALE & PIG ROAST

Monday, August 2, 2021
11 AM to 2 PM
43 Castlereagh Street

China, silver, decor, antiques,
ephemera and more!
Plus, pork on a bun from PigOut!



DONATIONS NEEDED

Although we can't have our full heritage festival again this summer, we are hoping to have the popular Treasures Sale in the courtyard on Monday, August 2 from 11 am to 2 pm. We will also host another pop-up pig roast at the same time (more information to follow on our website).

We are looking for donations from our members and friends to make this sale a success. Do you have some treasures in your basement, attic or garage that you would like to donate? We are looking for china, silver, small antiques, décor, art and more for our sale.

We cannot take your items until July, but please contact Amy at aklassen@nhsm.ca if you have something you would like to donate!

EPHEMERA DETECTIVE

Don't Be an Old Maid

John G. Sayers (jasayers@saybuck.com)

I don't play card games, but when I saw this *Old Maid* box ('Made in Canada') a few years ago in a dealer's display in Lakeshore Antiques Mall I had to buy it for the social history that it represents.

Do you remember when being an 'old maid' was the dread in almost every young girl's life? Her parents would have been seriously worried about their daughter becoming an old maid once she had passed beyond her 21st year. I recall friends of ours explaining that they had sent their daughter to university 'so that she could get her MRS'. The objective was that she would meet bright young men with above-average career prospects and marry one of them.

A hundred years ago a woman who was an old maid carried a serious social stigma. She was clearly unsuccessful in attaining what was supposed to be every woman's primary objective – marriage and then motherhood. What better subject could one find to typify losing at the game of life than to call the loser an *Old Maid*?

The game is to match duplicates of the various cards (Mrs. Fish, Mrs. Go Easy, Mrs. Coddles, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Muggins, Mrs. Goose, etc. – all of them married women) and play them in the centre of the table. Through a series of pulling some cards and discarding others, the players dispose of their cards in matched pairs except that there is one card in the game that has no matching card – the *Old Maid*. Whoever is left with that card "...is declared the *Old Maid*, or the *Old Bachelor*" and is the loser.



JANET CARNOCHAN DAY

We celebrate the opening of the Museum on June 4th, aptly named Janet Carnochan Day. Our dear founder would have been 181 years old today, and we wonder what she would have written about today's pandemic.



How cruel! But it is an empirical demonstration of the social attitudes of the time. My wife Judith's mother was required to quit her teaching job after she got married because she was expected to become a housewife, with her husband providing for her. Further, she was deemed to be taking a job from a male who might have his own household to care for financially. Even after the advent of Rosie the Riveter in the Second War, society was generally against women in the work force.

What a dilemma. A woman was required to make the choice of being an old maid – working but unwelcome in the work force – or a married woman indentured to her spouse. Divorce was even more unthinkable, with the divorced woman of even just 50 years ago being stigmatized in comments we have seen as 'damaged goods', so the married woman had to put up with whatever her marital peril.

Women, aren't you happy that our society has wakened up to your potential and recognized that marriage is not the apex of every woman's aspirations. Ephemera - in the form of a simple card game - defines how far we have come.

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Hello members!

We are so fortunate to be able to continue maintaining our museum and providing quality programming with the financial support of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and through successful federal and provincial government grants. Most importantly, the strong community support we receive from you is invaluable! Thank you for being here for your museum through this unprecedented time.

I can't continue without mentioning how fortunate we are to have our hardworking staff here at the NOTL Museum. Amanda has continued with her Ontario Trillium Foundation grant project, utilizing her teaching experience to develop exciting new Tiny Museum programs despite school closures. Babs has dedicated several hours to many of our digital programs, like the cemetery tours and Doors Open to name a few, marketing and maintaining membership and volunteer administration. Shawna has been tirelessly maintaining our social media platforms, compiling the Society's new publication, developing our virtual exhibitions and so much more. I think many of you know how amazing Amy is. Besides the many things she does, Amy works hard on monitoring our finances, marketing our wonderful museum, and writing grants to boost our programming. During COVID each of these staff members have really stepped up despite the murky waters we are wading through. So, I wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU to the NOTL Museum staff who have worked hard to keep our treasured place growing.

If you're wondering how our expansion project is moving along, we're working with the Town on submitting a few required reports, such as a Heritage Impact Assessment and an Arborist report. The fundraising has been moving along as well, despite COVID. We have enjoyed some great conversations with donors and would welcome the chance to chat about the project with interested members and the ways in which you can provide support to the project.

We hope you are staying safe, tuning into all the online programming offered by NOTL's heritage and cultural organizations and, of course, buying local to help support our wonderful community.

- Sarah Kaufman

THE DOC CLUB



A big thanks to all our 'Doc Clubbers' who made the first year of the Doc Club so successful. The discussions were lively (and always respectful), and if members preferred to listen and not debate, that was perfectly fine. The group met monthly from September 2020 until May 2021, and everyone became zoom experts very quickly. The films offered a retrospective on Canadian history, from the war years and early immigration, to relationships with the USA, and attitudes towards arts, politics and women in the workplace. During March, the club partnered with RiverBrink Art Museum to celebrate International Women's Month, and watched original documentaries reflecting the lives of great artists, as well as trailblazing women. Perhaps the documentary that told the story of women truckers in Quebec garnered some of the most interesting comments.

And as one Doc Clubber said, "We all too often get stuck in one mode, and to be challenged is like stirring up the brain cells." We're very happy to do that, and so we'll be stirring them up again this September for another series of monthly meetings. If you'd like to join the group, please send your email contact info to Babs at bworthy@nhsn.ca.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

We were very excited in early April when we got a phone call from someone who had a trunk that belonged to a girl who went through Our Western Home! These are very rare pieces from this organization that once operated in town. We were even more excited when they agreed to donate it to our collection.

For those who are unfamiliar with Our Western Home, it was essentially a distribution centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake (located where Rye Park is today) that would train young girls who were orphaned, abandoned or were in the workhouses in Britain. These girls would undergo training at Our Western Home to become domestics and indentured until they were 18, or on some occasions, they were lucky and adopted by families. Before each girl boarded a ship, she was given one of these trunks—which we call Rye Trunks after Maria Rye who started the home—that was filled with supplies like shoes, socks, petticoats, handkerchiefs, and other necessities. The trunks have the name of the girl, either “c/o Miss Rye” or “c/o The Matron”, and Our Western Home painted on it. Every single Rye box in our collection is unique, not only because of the name on it, but also because no box in its design and construction is the same. Of the 5 that we have in the collection one is smaller, another is quite large, and we even have a metal one. This new box has red painted accents and decorative metal corners. But what is really special is that this new box still has the shipping stickers on it, which none of the other boxes in our collection do! If you want to come and see these Rye boxes from our collection, all of them are currently on display, either in our permanent gallery, or in our exhibition about the women of Niagara-on-the-Lake.



As for the girl this box belonged to, May Fifield, she came over on the Allan Steamship Virginian in June of 1912. She was 14 years old. Listed as crossing with her is Violet Fifield of the same age. What happened to either May or Violet is unknown. David Hemmings has been conducting a lot of research into the over 5,000 girls who attended Our Western Home. The future of his research is also looking into where they were placed, what happened to them, and their descendant's genealogy.

- Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator

TINY MUSEUM UPDATE

Since our last newsletter, our Tiny Museum programs have grown! Our popular program, Voices of Freedom, has been converted into a Tiny Museum program. Most recently, I have been developing a program that was very popular in teacher surveys, which is a general program introducing students to using artefacts to study history tentatively titled “What is an Artefact”. This program will have students working with diverse artefacts from our collection to establish significance and histories and I can't wait for it to enter classrooms.

Due to the circumstances this year, we did not get to pilot our program in schools, but we are hoping that this summer we can pilot the programs if it is safe to run our annual kids' camp. Here is hoping the 2021-22 school year will be different and if it is, the NOTL Museum will have a repertoire of programs for outreach in our schools.

- Amanda Balyk, Tiny Museum Coordinator

President's Report

Thanks to all our community-minded friends who continue to support the NOTL Museum and enjoy a prepared meal washed down with good Ravine wine. Once again, this month's History in the Vineyard event has been a huge success. Our particular appreciation is extended to the dedicated volunteers and Museum staff who make such events happen so smoothly in a period of provincial craziness.

Please also join me in celebrating Amy Klassen's 20-year anniversary with our Museum. In the days of Bill Severin as Curator – even before the tenure of Clark Bernat – Amy joined as a summer student and never left. Her contribution and dedication to our NOTL Museum has been extraordinary and she has become the “go-to” person for museum history, our events, news and finances. Her quiet efficiency continues to be a real asset to our community, who see the output of her work through Museum-sponsored events and newsletters. Thank you, Amy.

- David Hemmings

History in the Vineyard

Our third History in the Vineyard (at home) was another success with almost 200 meals served to the community! Thank you to our partners the Friends of Fort George, Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, The Garrison House and Ruffino's Pasta Bar and Grill for helping to make the event a great experience for all involved. We appreciate the hard work of our event committee - Mona Babin (chair), Tony Chisholm, Paul Harber, Amy Klassen and Amanda Gamble. And a special thanks to Rene Bertschi and Scott Finlay for putting together a special video to commemorate the Battle of Fort George for the guests, and to delivery volunteers, Carol Perrin, Jim McArthur and Marlene Masales! Most of all, thank you to everyone who purchased meals and made additional donations, helping us raise over \$7,000 to share between the Museum and the Friends of Fort George.



JOIN OUR BOARD!



At the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, the Niagara Historical Society is not only saving our town's history, but we are also making it!

As we look forward to growing the Museum, help us make history by **joining the Society's Board of Directors.**

If you like what we do, YOU may want to be part of it and if you do - WE WANT YOU!!

Call the Museum at **905-468-3912** or email **contact@nhsm.ca** to learn more.



Sarah Kaufman, Tony Chisholm, Scott Finlay (Parks Canada),
Mona Babin and Amy Klassen

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



MEMBERSHIP DUES

due in January each year

Individual: \$30
Family (household): \$50
Student: \$10
Commercial: \$45
Individual Life: \$300
Couple Life: \$500

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MUSEUM HOURS

CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO PANDEMIC

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 which 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