



NIAGARA ON THE LAKE
MUSEUM

Chronicles

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **June 4:** Weekend Walking Tours begin
- ◆ **June 4:** Janet Carnochan Day—free admission
- ◆ **June 16:** Lecture, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **June 27:** Famous & Infamous—Lorenzo di Piero de' Medici, 2 pm
- ◆ **July 1:** Canada Day—Tiny Museum in the Community
- ◆ **July 18-22:** Kid Curators Camp
- ◆ **July 21:** Lecture, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **July 25:** Famous & Infamous—Simon Bolivar, 2 pm
- ◆ **July 27:** Yoga in the Courtyard, 9 am
- ◆ **August 1:** Heritage Festival, 11 am to 3 pm
- ◆ **August 3:** Yoga in the Courtyard, 9 am
- ◆ **August 10:** Yoga in the Courtyard, 9 am
- ◆ **August 10:** “13 for 13” Canada Summer Games event—Tiny Museum in the Community
- ◆ **August 15-19:** Kid Curators Camp
- ◆ **August 22:** Famous & Infamous—Sir Roger Casement, 2 pm
- ◆ **August 24:** Yoga in the Courtyard, 9 am
- ◆ **August 31:** Yoga in the Courtyard, 9 am



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

The sun is out, and so are our amazing volunteers. The feeling of spring has made us all feel more like our old selves, well – let’s say our ‘young’ selves. And it’s been invigorating to have members drop by on their bikes, on their morning walks, or just to say hello.

At various times you would have also seen our merry band of gardeners, spring cleaning, digging, sweeping, watering, and caring for our most-beloved heritage roses.

On other days the research and archive rooms have been a hive of activity.

A big thank you to all our members who responded with such enthusiasm to our recent membership drive. We are proud to say that we have a very healthy membership of nearly 500 members, through either annual or life memberships. And as we move into our preparations for our planned expansion, we appreciate hugely this commitment to the NOTL Museum.

In the meantime, stay healthy everyone, and for every folder you file, every item you check, every box you move, every poppy you knit or crochet, every word you transcribe, and every rose you plant – we thank you.

- Babs Worthy, Community Engagement Coordinator

Pictured top to bottom: Peter Babcock transcribing newspapers from our collection; Lois Chapman serves members at our May exhibition launch; Lorraine Joyner keeping our courtyard in tiptop shape.

happening at the museum

Community Courtyard Returns

Our Community Courtyard tent will be back up this July and August! Come by and have a coffee, meet a friend or read a book. Enjoy the peaceful garden or make use of our free Wi-Fi. Stay tuned for upcoming courtyard events!

OUTDOOR YOGA IN THE COURTYARD

Wednesdays | Jul 27 | Aug 3, 10, 24, 31 | Sep 7

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. Email aklassen@nhsm.ca to reserve your spot.



www.sacredfernnyoga.com | notlmuseum.ca

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

9:00am - 10:00am



ALL ALONG THE WATERFRONT Lecture Series

June 16 | 7:30 pm

Owen Bjorgan

“NOTL’s Waterfront: Worry and Wonder”

July 21 | 7:30 pm

Travis Hill

Portage Routes and the Niagara River

\$10 or free for Members. Call 905-468-3912 to reserve your spot as space is limited.

*Generously sponsored by
Geoffrey & Lorraine Joyner*



SEPTEMBER 10 - 2022

Discover the power and passion of polo on the historic Commons !

Niagara Polo features two four-chukker games with players from the Toronto Polo Club, traditional divot stomp with bubbly, half-time entertainment, music, food vendors, bar, artisans, silent auction, vintage cars, and loads of fun!

Visit www.niagarapolo.com for information and tickets.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

In preparation for our annual heritage festival, we are looking for your treasures! If you have some old china, antiques, collectables or other gems collecting dust, why not donate them to the Museum for our **Treasures Sale**? Donations can be dropped off at the Museum during the **last two weeks of July**, or we can make other arrangements if needed. Last year's donations raised over \$5,000 for the Museum!

We are also looking for bakers to contribute to our bake sale. If you are interested in helping out, email Amy at aklassen@nhsm.ca.

Building Local Partnerships

We recently developed a new partnership with Niagara Holiday Rentals! They provided a generous donation to the Museum so that guests of their properties can enjoy admission to the Museum.

Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement on Loyalty Partners that will give discounts to our members!



THE PAST IS PRESENT

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022
11AM - 3PM

TREASURERS SALE, HISTORIC DEMONSTRATIONS, BAKE SALE, FOOD, LIVE MUSIC AND MORE!
FREE ADMISSION

New Mini Documentaries

Every day, visitors and residents share their memories with us, some directly related to our exhibits, some just long-held family tales. But it is those stories that are the heart of our museum and help document our histories. Please keep sharing. We have an extensive oral history collection on our website, and we are adding to these all the time.

You can enjoy some of these stories in our recent mini documentary series, produced by Babs Worthy and Joe Lapinski, and funded by the Niagara Region and the Niagara Community Foundation.

“All Along the Waterfront – A History of the Waterfront Industries” looks at the growth and demise of the dock area and is a perfect complement to our current exhibit. “Fruit and Farming of Niagara: A History of Dirt and Diesel” and “Black History – A Hidden History” both take a contemporary and often untold look at local history. To watch these short videos, please check [HERE](#), or go to our website at <https://www.notlmuseum.ca/whats-on> and scroll down to Virtual Programs.

President's Report

Hello Everyone,

A few years ago, I had heard of this foreign sport and seen a few photos.... but knew very little (ie nothing) about the game of polo. That changed in 2018 when I was a volunteer on the Niagara Polo team! I learned terms like offside (the right-hand side of the pony), quartet (the number of players in a team), and divot stomp (when spectators converge on the field to stomp down the turf that has been torn up by the ponies' hooves). What a great day it was.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum hosts the Niagara Polo event every two years. COVID delayed, our next event will take place on Saturday, September 10th, 2022. The day starts at 11am and ends around 4pm. Not only will you be able to see some of the best Canadian polo players perform on the Commons, you'll be entertained (details are kept secret) at half-time. Of course, we will have bubbly, wine, and a variety of food available for you. During the 'break', don't forget to visit our silent auction. There promises to be great items up for grabs.

If you want to go all out, I hope you will join me in the VIP tent. That ticket offers you a seat at an elegant table (under a tent), a gourmet lunch with local wines and craft beer, bubbly, and traditional afternoon cream tea.

Tickets went on sale May 10th and are selling fast! Visit the event website at www.niagarapolo.com. Hope to see you there.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's latest exhibit "All along the waterfront" opened in May. A lot of hours have been spent planning, printing, and installing all the elements. True to the staff's incredible research team and dedication to inform and entertain you, you will not be disappointed! I invite you to visit the museum to learn more about our town.

The tent will be up for July and August in the museum courtyard. Hope to see you there too...

Take care,
Mona Babin
President of the Niagara Historical Society

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

In November 2020, the Board created an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Taskforce to review the Board and Nominating committee practices, policies and procedures, and our programming and exhibitions. It resulted in a report that provided recommendations to the Board on ways to improve, abbreviated below. The following recommendations, were presented in August 2021:

- **Recommendation #1. EDI Leadership:** Ensure that EDI is applied at all levels of the organization through its policies, procedures, and practices.
- **Recommendation #2. Staffing and Training:** Hiring and recruitment to consider ways to best attract BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) applicants. EDI training for Staff and Board.
- **Recommendation #3. Guiding Principles, Policies, Procedures and Reporting:** Annual reviews, prior to the AGM, to ensure that the evolving needs are met. An EDI audit to be completed every 5 years.
- **Recommendation #4. Communication:** Use of social media to reach specific demographics, communicate EDI initiatives, and illuminate EDI related historical events and current issues.
- **Recommendation #5. Partnerships:** Maintain and increase the use of partnerships with diverse groups.

Continued on page 5...

Pride and Prejudices: How It Happened

by Elizabeth (Betsy) Masson

An article I have written about the life of Hannah Jarvis appears in the June-July issue of Canada's History Magazine. Why did I write it?

I've subscribed to the magazine, formerly known as The Beaver and founded by the Hudson's Bay Company over a hundred years ago, for fifteen years or so and always found the articles well-written and informative. But I was dismayed to find an article last year about Amelia Earhart's visit to Toronto as a young woman and thought, "This is nice but couldn't the editor have found an article about a woman who actually lived in Canada?" My next thought was, "Well, why don't I write one on Hannah Jarvis about whom I had made a presentation to the Famous & Infamous group at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum? But would an article about a woman who had done nothing of significance beyond writing letters describing her life as the wife of a member of the first cabinet of Upper Canada actually appeal to the magazine's editor?" To my amazement, it did.

The resulting article is, by no means, entirely my own work. There were three different versions before the senior editor was satisfied with the focus, wording, and organization. She was the person who thought of the title, "Pride and Prejudices" although it was the editor-in-chief who added the subtitle, "A society matron's gossipy letters expose the class conflicts of early Upper Canada" which I fear promises more than is delivered. I expected to be writing captions for the illustrations but instead it was the art editor who not only decided which to use but wrote the captions.

Since there is no place for acknowledgements in a magazine article, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Merritt for reading my first draft and offering detailed suggestions for its improvement. And my thanks to David Murray and Liz Surtees who established the Famous & Infamous biography discussion group more than ten years ago; I'm sure I wouldn't have written this article if I hadn't put a good deal of effort into my presentation to F & I.

And now to conclude with Hannah Jarvis's significance in Canadian history, I will quote the last paragraph of the article, "Jarvis's letters and diaries provide insights into interactions among different classes of society in Upper Canada. She was uniquely placed to understand social status since she knew both wealth and poverty".

...Continued from page 4

- **Recommendation #6. Exhibits:** Create exhibits and program opportunities for diverse members of the community to gather, engage with the museum, and to understand how the museum can be reflective of their own histories and aspirations.

It is our goal that empathetic leadership be prevalent among all levels of the organization. Several of these recommendations have been addressed through the objectives of our Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025. If you have any questions about the report, please feel free to reach out to myself or the Taskforce Chair George Webber.

Special thanks to our Taskforce members: George Webber (Chair, Board Director), Marlene Masales, Sarah Kaufman (Managing Director), Tim Johnson (Board Director), Carol Perrin (former Board Director), and Faith Bell (Past-President).

- Sarah Kaufman



Well, folks, it has finally happened. After the pandemic-that-must-not-be-named put a few wrenches in our plans, we have opened our much-anticipated exhibit, All Along the Waterfront. This exhibit explores our community's history and relationship with the Niagara River and Lake Ontario.

At one time, these waters provided our town with an illustrious shipping industry, a booming commercial fishing enterprise (that eventually went bust), and a dock area that was the economic centre of the town. Today, thousands rely on the River and Lake for their drinking water, for hydroelectric power, and as a source of recreation. And over 1,250 species depend on these waters as a suitable habitat.

Even though these waters have provided us with many benefits, humans have not been so kind in return. We have exploited this natural resource for decades. As the water levels rise and the shoreline erodes at a greater rate, it may feel like the River and Lake are fighting back against us.

All of this, and more, is explored in this display, which will be on until December 18, 2022!

- *Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator*



New-ish Acquisition

We were very fortunate to have this fantastic image donated to the collection in 2020. In this image, a very excited Goring Ball (with the hiked-up pants) and others are showing off a 75 lb and a 160 lb sturgeon that were both caught in the Niagara River.

Digitization Project Discoveries

There are so many interesting items in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's archives. Over the last six months, there have been many items that have piqued my interest, however, I have selected only three to share this month.

In our collection are a few documents that are lists of convictions for the late 1800's as well as a ledger with handwritten recordings of the convictions from June 1, 1911, through November 22, 1921. The most common conviction in the 1880's appears to be for drunk and disorderly, while in the 1920's the most common conviction is for a breach of a by-law (with still quite a few drunk and disorderly charges).

These lists of convictions provide some valuable historical information, such as the charge, the punishment or fine for that charge, the names of defendants and prosecutors, as well as the name of the convicting Justice. These not only act as a record of judicial history but also provide information on activities in the area such as boys stealing peaches or the introduction of motor vehicle offences.

The third item is a special edition of the "The World" newspaper printed Sunday, December 15, 1901. The "Special Woman's Supplement" was edited by Harriet Hubbard Ayer and the content of this four-page spread was taken from the book "The Arts of Beauty or Secrets of a Lady's Toilet" by Lola Montez, written in 1858.

Lola Montez (February 17, 1821— January 17, 1861) began a career as a "Spanish" dancer after separating from her husband in 1843. Her dancing career ended by 1856 and she then took up teaching and lecturing on topics such as fashion, gallantry, and beautiful women. Montez was one of the first women to lecture to other women about beauty and that beauty is power. When originally published, the source material for her article (pictured below) was considered highly improper.

This newspaper article stands out as it is brightly coloured and includes many photographs to highlight the article's topics. This paper provides tips on what makeup is appropriate for different social functions, how to obtain a good head of hair, how to prevent your hair from turning grey and habits which destroy a lady's complexion.

-Katlynn Best



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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

CONTACT US: Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum

43 Castlereagh Street, PO Box 208
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0
Phone: 905-468-3912 | Fax: 905-468-1728
contact@nhsm.ca

Visit us at www.notlmuseum.ca



@NOTLMuseum

STAFF

Sarah Kaufman

Managing Director/Curator
skaufman@nhsm.ca

Amy Klassen

Director of Finance & Marketing
aklassen@nhsm.ca

Shawna Butts

Assistant Curator &
Educational Programmer
sbutts@nhsm.ca

Barbara Worthy

Community Engagement
Coordinator
bworthy@nhsm.ca

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