



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **March 5:** Documentary Club discussion, 10 am
- ◆ **March 10:** Online lecture, 11 am
- ◆ **March 12:** Documentary Club discussion, 10 am
- ◆ **March 19:** Documentary Club discussion, 10 am
- ◆ **March 24:** Online lecture, 11 am
- ◆ **March 26:** Documentary Club discussion, 10 am
- ◆ **April 9:** Documentary Club discussion, 10 am
- ◆ **April 7:** Online lecture, 10:30 am
- ◆ **April 18-21:** National Volunteer Week
- ◆ **May 7:** Documentary Club discussion, 10 am
- ◆ **May 18:** International Museum Day

We are monitoring the COVID rules and restrictions to determine when we can resume in-person lectures and other events.



HISTORY IN THE VINEYARD (AT HOME)

After a successful event in 2019, we made plans to repeat our History in the Vineyard fundraiser at Ravine Winery in December 2020. It soon became apparent that the entire event would need to switch to take-out in order to keep everyone safe. In partnership with the Friends of Fort George, we invited two additional restaurants to the table (Ruffino's Pasta Bar & Grill and The Garrison House) and offered several choices for each of the three-courses included in the \$100 ticket. Guests were also able to order wine with their meals and the food was prepared in oven-safe containers, ready-to-go with reheating instructions. The December event included links to a pre-recorded video about 'Christmas Through the Ages'. The event was such a success and was so well-received by our guests that we repeated this formula on February 11th, 2021. This time we added a delivery option and we included printed material and links to online content that highlighted Black History in NOTL. Our second event surpassed our sales from the first with 220 meals served! Together, the two events raised over \$16,500 to split between the Museum and the Friends of Fort George.

A huge thank you goes to Ravine Winery staff for all their assistance with coordinating the meal preparation, packaging and pick-up, to Ruffino's and The Garrison House for their support and delicious food, and to our team of organizers led by Mona Babin. And a big thank you goes to the many people who supported this fundraiser and came to pick up their meals with huge smiles and friendly hellos! It was great to see everyone! Stay tuned for news about the next History in the Vineyard event coming this spring.

happening at the museum



New Website Coming Soon...

For the past few months we have been working on the redevelopment of our website to make it mobile friendly, secure and easier to navigate. We are excited to launch our new site in the spring. Stay tuned!

Volunteers Receive Provincial Awards

Each year we nominate 6 volunteers for the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards, beginning with 5 years of service. The following volunteers were nominated in 2020, but due to COVID, a virtual ceremony wasn't held until February 2021. They will receive pins and certificates for their years of service by mail:

- Lois Chapman** – 15 years
- Ron Dale** – 15 years
- Deb Paine** – 15 years
- Clara Tarnoy** – 15 years
- Peter Babcock** – 10 years
- Tom Patterson** – 5 years

Thank you to the 2020 award recipients and to our many volunteers, who are the backbone of the Niagara Historical Society and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum!!



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH DOCUMENTARY CLUB

Presented by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum
and RiverBrink Art Museum to Celebrate
Women in Art & History

- MAR 05** **The Canadians: Agnes MacPhail**
- MAR 12** **By Woman's Hand** Prudence Howard, Sarah Robertson and Anne Savage
- MAR 19** **Wanted! Doctor on Horseback** Dr. Mary Percy
- MAR 26** **Bone Wind Fire** Georgia O'Keeffe, Emily Carr and Frida Kahlo

WATCH THE DOCUMENTARY ONLINE AND THEN JOIN A GROUP
DISCUSSION LED BY MUSEUM STAFF ON ZOOM

FRIDAYS AT 10 AM IN MARCH



To register and receive links to each documentary email bworthy@nhsm.ca or sdelazzer@riverbrink.org.





2021 VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

MAR 10
11 AM

Shawna Butts
"Not All Women are Saints"

MAR 24
11 AM

Frank Racioppo
A History of the Queenston Quarry

APR 07
10:30 AM

Robert J. Lake - 'A front seat among the playgrounds of two nations': Lawn Tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake, c.1880s-1920s

WEDNESDAYS ON ZOOM



Visit www.nhsm.ca to register
Follow us @NOTLMuseum or email
contact@nhsm.ca for more information



MEET OUR INTERN!

Hello all, my name is Michelle Wright. For those of you who have not met me, don't feel bad, I hide away in the collections, working with small but mighty artifacts!

Thanks to **Young Canada Works at Building Careers in Heritage - Jeunesse Canada au travail pour une carrière vouée au patrimoine**, I have a short but sweet contract here at the Museum as a Curatorial Intern. I received a warm welcome from the Museum in late November and I will be sad to go in a few months.

While I am here, I get to explore some of my favourite things about museums - the collection! My work is all about rehousing smaller artifacts into safe and portable homes in preparation of the Museum's upcoming expansion. I have had the honour of working with almost 2000 artifacts, making sure each one of them is documented and photographed, as well as building boxes and trays to give each one its own home and space (pictured below).



Every artifact is special, from the tiniest button to the large row boat in Memorial Hall, and the safer the home, the longer the artifact will be around for us to learn from it and enjoy its story!

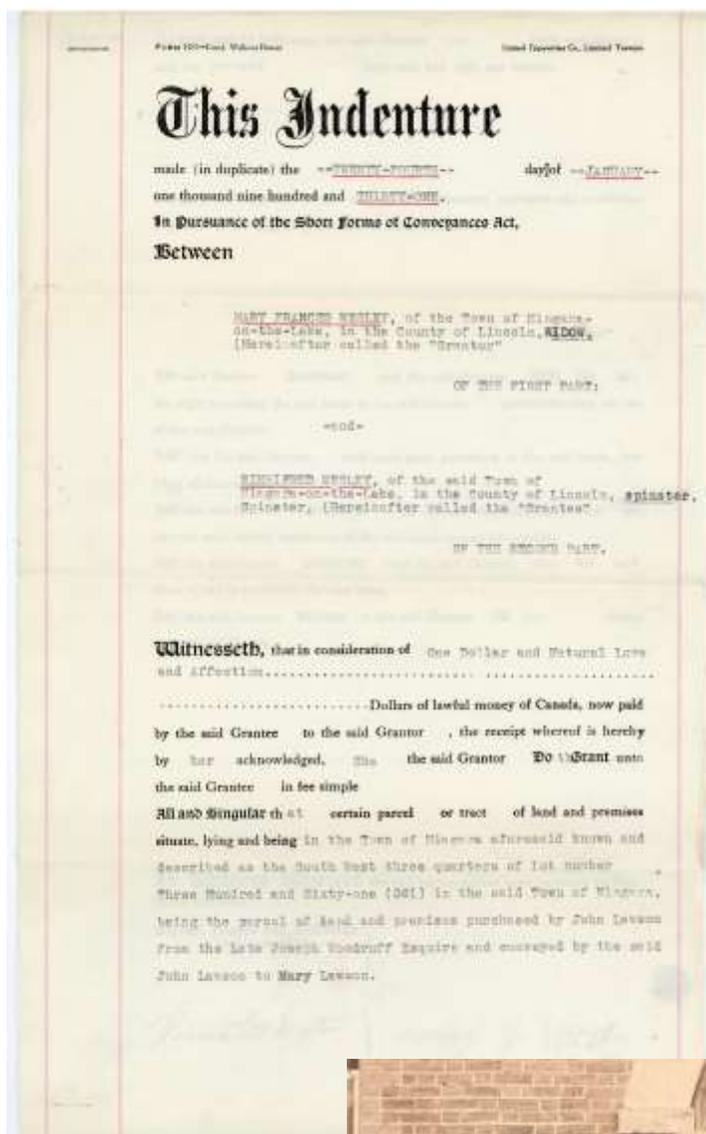
MAKING HER MARK

Our book about the women of Niagara-on-the-Lake, which complements our current exhibition, will be released in 2021. It features many women who have made a mark on our community. If you are interested in putting your name down on a pre-order list for the book (~\$25/book), please contact us.

The Wesley Women

Descendants of a freedom-seeker, Elizabeth, Mary and Winnifred Wesley, worked from a young age as servants, nurses, or laundresses for local white families in Niagara-on-the-Lake. These were some of the few jobs available for Black women during the mid to late 1800s. They not only maintained their home and worked on the family farms, but they also had to find employment to help alleviate the economic hardships that their families faced. Overtime, the Wesley women acquired several properties in Niagara-on-the-Lake and were able to sell them when needed to ease economic stress. From servants to landowners, these women help us better understand the lives of Black women around the turn of the century and how their hard work impacted generations after them.

-Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator



Winnifred Wesley is pictured 3rd row from the back, 2nd from the left in this school photo from the Niagara Public School.

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

First off, I would like to express our thanks to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for maintaining their funding for our Museum in 2020 and 2021. It was a tough year for us with many budgeted items reduced, and without their support, we would have had a very different year. Our Board of Directors were clear on their priorities for the year which were to maintain the staff, the buildings, and our collection. With their support we were able to do that and more!

Since many in-person programs were restricted, we turned our attention to online programming and social media. We shared many posts about local history, the collection and heritage sites across NOTL. We successfully pivoted several programs to an online format with 16 online lectures and 10 of the popular cemetery stories from our Theatrical Cemetery Tours. We partnered with Niagara College's Broadcasting Department to record the fan-favourite "We'll Meet Again" program for November 11th, thirteen Doors Open NOTL videos of local heritage sites and "Rollin' Down the River", a show celebrating our waterfront history. We also uploaded 6 new virtual exhibitions for you to enjoy at home! We hope to continue the digital fun with our programs in 2021!

We missed the opportunity to run our Kid Curator's Summer camp in 2020—we always enjoy hearing the laughter and fun of kids in the Museum building. Instead we decided to create weekly craft kits for kids to work on at home. In total, 159 kits were prepared and available by donation. We also created diaries for students at the junior and intermediate levels to document their lives and experiences during the COVID pandemic. This was shared widely online and sent to local schools. Hopefully our youth as well as our members will help us document their experiences during this difficult period in our history.

On behalf of the staff I just wanted to express how much we are missing the fun of seeing all of our members and volunteers over the last year. We tried to keep in touch through renewed weekly emails and, for those who do not go online, we hand delivered a special COVID monthly member newsletter. We were also happy to see many of you at the Volunteer Appreciation drive-thru lunch. We can't wait to see you all again when it is safe to do so. Remember to stay safe and shop local!

- Sarah Kaufman

TINY MUSEUM UPDATE

The first Tiny Museum school exhibit and program is nearing completion! People have inhabited Niagara-on-the-Lake for thousands of years and the "People of Niagara" program will highlight eight groups who have lived in Niagara throughout the years. This program was one of the most popular choices when I sent out a survey to local educators. The "People of Niagara" program will allow students to gain a deeper understanding of the diverse groups who have called Niagara home, while investigating the interesting artifacts and primary sources the museum has to offer. Unfortunately with COVID, it is unlikely that the Tiny Museum will make it into schools this year, but hopefully there will be virtual opportunities to extend our reach into our community. Once "People of Niagara" is complete, I will move onto developing the next program – stay tuned to our June issue to see what it will be.

-Amanda Balyk, Tiny Museum Coordinator

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Carol Perrin
Chuck Jackson
David Murray & Elizabeth Surtees
Dennis Kam
Donald Combe
Faith & David Bell
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Janet Lamb
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Estate of John Albrechtsen
Rona Gray & Ted Rumble
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SPONSORSHIP

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Trudi Watson & Earle Waugh
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Valerie Hancock
Victor Solomatenko
Vika Goodale
Vinci Ling
Wendy Connelly
Wes Turner
William & Patricia Garriock

IN KIND

David Livett
David Murray & Elizabeth Surtees
Elizabeth Hughes
Fran Boot
Mora Richmond
Richard Coyne
Richard Merritt

MEMORIAM

In Memory of William Fedorkow

Anonymous
D. Bruce Henning
Deborah Fedorkow
Earle Muir
Elizabeth Fedorkow & David Alles
Guy Fedorkow
Helen Witkowski
Sara McKitrick

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ann Marie Lorenc
Arden Phair
Carol Clarke
Eileen Hanna
Jamie & Betty Knight
Jim & Marilyn Armstrong
Julian & Alice Rance
Lauren & Vaughan Goettler
Mitchell Azaria
Ted Rumble

COLLECTIONS

Barbara Bedell
Brian Menard
Chris Allen
Donald Combe
Elizabeth Oliver-Malone
Jim Smith
John Burtniak
John Clark
John Sayers
Ken Willms
Lou Fedorkow
Margaret Reid
Mark Gaudet
Mary Snider
Murray Wilcox
Richard Merritt
Roger Harrison
Therese de Bruyn
Vince Biondi

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Find the site of Butler's Homestead	Go on the Voices of Freedom Walking Tour	Visit the Landscape of Nations Memorial	Visit the NOTL Museum's Google Arts and Culture Page	Visit St. Mark's Cemetery
Watch one of the NOTL Museum's 2020 online webinars	Explore Fort Mississauga	Test your knowledge of NOTL's History by taking the Museum's quizzes	Watch the <i>Rollin' Down the River</i> performance	Find and read 5 NOTL blue Ontario Heritage Trust Plaques
Read a book about the history of Niagara	Check out the Museum's online collection's database	FREE	Search for the Ordnance Boundary Stones in Old Town	Take a walk along the Heritage Trail
Visit St. Andrew's Cemetery	Participate in the 2021 NOTL Museum Online Lecture Series	Go for a walk along The Commons	Participate in NOTL's Digital Doors open	Find the Indian Council House Marker
Find the curling stone in the Randwood stone fence	Take a selfie with the Simcoe's	Find Vrooman's Battery	Renew/Take up a NOTL Museum Membership	Explore the McNab church and cemetery

HERITAGE BINGO

Looking for something to do to kill some time, get outside and discover parts of your community? Why not get your household together and give Heritage Bingo a try! As you complete the squares on the bingo card on the previous page, take a selfie. When you have a full card, send your pictures to us for a prize!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



MONA BABIN

We want to say a huge thank you to our wonderful volunteer, Mona Babin! Not only is Mona the Treasurer of the Board, but she also chaired our two recent History in the Vineyard (at home) events. She was instrumental in making these events a success and keeping all of the orders organized, while handling all the communication with the guests.

Mona has also chaired other events like the Snowbirds and Patio Picnic in the Vineyard, and is now leading our Membership & Development Committee of the Board. Thank you Mona for all you do to make our organization a success!

Evaluating Memberships

As we move through another extended period of 'Pandemic Planning' we're confident that our members will enjoy as much involvement and interaction as we've all enjoyed this past year, even though we have missed our frequent gatherings in person.

In the next couple of months you can expect to receive a survey to ask for your feedback on our activities and your membership benefits, and to share your priorities.

Throughout the past year museums across the continent have all experienced varying shifts in program delivery and member benefits. Most, like the NOTL Museum, have enthusiastically pivoted to digital content and virtual events. We may be facing more challenges in the next few months, but our priorities will continue to be the same – making sure our members feel enthusiastic and included in our programming.

We are examining enhanced membership benefits, as well as developing unique partnerships and sponsorships that will continue to promote the Museum's public engagement, both virtually and in person.

Our proposed expansion is exciting and demanding. Your involvement will be critical, on many levels. But it's important to remember that this is your Museum, and we welcome your input as we plan for the next generation of the NOTL Museum.

- Babs Worthy, Visitor & Member Services Assistant

...DONORS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

PLANNED GIVING PLEDGES

Anonymous
David Servos & Daniel Lockwood
Elizabeth Masson
Geoffrey & Lorraine Joyner
Glen & Elaine Servos
Judith & John Sayers
Judy Thornton

When planning your estate remember the Niagara Historical Society. Contact us to learn more about different planned giving options.

Thank you to all of our donors in 2020!

NEW ACQUISITIONS



In 2020, we received a donation of photographs to the collection that show pictures of town including Queen Street and the Charles Inn, the Lailey Farm, and kids at the Elliott House. In this collection, there are also a number of photographs that show the boathouses that were once located along the marine basin in the area located by the dock. In the 1950s, the Town directed that all of these buildings be removed but, we are fortunate to still have photographs, paintings and drawings that show a part of town that no longer exists. This area was at one time the centre of fishing in NOTL and we are excited to explore part of its history in our next exhibition, All Along the Waterfront.

- Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator

Memories of War-Time in Niagara by Shirley (Flawn) (McArthur) Jones

The year was 1945. The place was Simcoe Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In the centre of this park was a large, open-air pavilion, and when weather permitted, dances were held with a live band playing. I played the piano in this band which, except for me, was all male. These males were usually high school students around 17-18 years old. I was only 13 years of age, but looked 16.

We were paid the princely sum of \$2.00 an hour for our efforts. At that time, this was a huge amount of money. Dances were held on Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 9 p.m. to midnight, and were always packed.

There was an army camp nearby, where soldiers took their basic training. They quite enjoyed these twice a week outings in Simcoe Park. I suppose that it helped relieve some of the rigour in their lives. On dance nights, they were transported to the Park in army trucks.

Farmers in the area had a bevy of young women manning their crops; these women were called "Farmerettes", and were delivered to the dances by said farmers.

Soldiers and Farmerettes alike loved to "jitterbug" and so we played appropriate music for them to "jive". Favourite pieces were "Two O'clock Jump" and "In The Mood".

By the time midnight arrived and after spending a super evening, we were all weary and ready to go home. I was from St. Catharines and there were no buses running that time of night. However, I had an aunt who lived on Gate Street. She would walk to the park to collect me and to keep me out of harm's way. I'd stay the night with her and go back to my home in the morning.

(This reminiscence was shared by the mother of Board Member, Jim McArthur. We encourage others to write down their memories of Niagara-on-the-Lake and share them with the Museum!)

President's Report

Dear Members,

I am happy to report that your Board of Directors has just approved a new Strategic Plan for 2021-2025. Thank you to our consultants Rebecca Jones & Daryl Novak of Dysart & Jones Associates for their hard work in leading the board through the process and for helping us to set our priorities for the next five years. Now, Sarah and her staff will develop an operational plan to meet those goals and ensure we keep moving forward towards the expansion of the Museum and that we continue to provide outreach to all of Niagara-on-the-Lake's communities. More details will be revealed throughout the year. Our new strategic priorities are to:

1. Reimagine the museum as the beacon of your history
2. Extend the museum beyond its walls
3. Broaden our civic responsibility as your heritage steward

Thank you to everyone who supported both the December and February take-out fundraisers in partnership with the Friends of Fort George and Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery. The response to this initiative has been wonderful and it has provided us a way to greet our members and donors at pick up, while also supporting local restaurants during the pandemic.

2020 was certainly a challenging year, but you, our members, have ensured that we survived through it all. Together with funding from the Town of NOTL and assistance from government COVID support programs, your donations, membership dues and engagement have left us in a strong place as we face another year of uncertainty. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Museum, including NOTL's many tourists, so that we can continue sharing this Town's unique heritage.

*Sincerely,
David Hemmings*

IN MEMORIAM

We lost some wonderful members and supporters over the past few months. They will be greatly missed at the Museum and in the community.

William Humphries (Sept 13, 1944 - Dec 9, 2020)

Bill Humphries was a strong supporter of the Museum and of heritage in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He was instrumental in several projects in town that highlighted the important contributions and culture of Indigenous people, including the Landscape of Nations Memorial and the travelling exhibition of Iroquois beadwork from the ROM, which we hosted in 2019. He also supported the Tiny Museum construction.

Michael Howe (1946 - Dec 29, 2020)

Michael Howe was very well-known in Niagara-on-the-Lake for his support of heritage conservation as a board member of the Niagara Foundation. His contributions have had a lasting impact on our community through his efforts to preserve our built heritage.

Lenore Morrison (Jan 30, 1931 - Jan 18, 2021)

Lenore joined the Society in 2011 as we were gearing up for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. She quickly got involved in the many activities at the Museum and could often be seen at our fundraisers and special events. She was always willing to lend a hand as a volunteer at our events.

Diane Hemmings (Sept 2, 1945 - Feb 3, 2021)

Diane was a huge supporter of arts and culture in Niagara-on-the-Lake and was heavily involved with the Communities in Bloom committee of the Town as well as Music Niagara. Life Members of the Society, she and her husband David have been dedicated donors to many of our activities. A special thank you to the Hemmings family who directed memorial donations in Diane's name to the Society.

Jean Cushing (Apr 28, 1922 - Feb 7, 2021)

Jean Cushing was one of the original "Vault Ladies" who worked diligently in our archives as a volunteer, cataloguing and transcribing for over 25 years. She moved away in 2008 to be closer to family, but remained a loyal member until last year.

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

due in January each year

Individual: \$30
Family (household): \$50
Student: \$10
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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.nhsm.ca