



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Mar 1: Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ◆ Mar 8: Virtual Lecture, 11am
- ◆ Mar 10: Doc Club on Zoom, 10am
- ◆ Mar 24: Doc Club on Zoom, 10am
- ◆ Mar 27: Famous & Infamous, 2pm
- ◆ Mar 30: Members' Trivia Night, 7pm
- ◆ Apr 7 & 9: Museum Closed for Good Friday and Easter Sunday
- ◆ Apr 14: Doc Club on Zoom, 10am
- ◆ Apr 20: In-person lecture, 7:30pm
- ◆ Apr 24: Famous & Infamous, 2pm
- ◆ May 5: Neighbourhood Walk, 6pm
- ◆ May 12: Doc Club on Zoom, 10am
- ◆ May 12: Neighbourhood Walk, 6pm
- ◆ May 18: International Museums Day—Free admission
- ◆ May 18: In-person lecture, 7:30pm
- ◆ May 19: Neighbourhood Walk, 6pm
- ◆ May 22: Famous & Infamous, 2pm
- ◆ May 26: Neighbourhood Walk, 6pm

Niagara HOLIDAY
RENTALS

Cheers to our Volunteers!

On Tuesday, December 12 we held our Volunteer Appreciation event, aptly named 'Brunch and Bubbly'. We were thrilled to be able to thank all our amazing volunteers in person, with mimosas and a fabulous brunch catered by Sweets and Swirls, (with a special mention of course to Amy's mother for her ridiculously good sandwiches.)

Each year we can choose six volunteers to receive Ontario Volunteer Service Awards for committed and dedicated years of volunteerism to the NOTL Museum. For 2022 we honoured Peggy Bell (25 years), Steve Baxter (15 years), Gail Santsche (10 years), Judy Thornton (10 years), George Dell (5 years), and Rene Bertschi (5 years). Each recipient received a personalized certificate and lapel pin from the province acknowledging their years of service. A big thank you to them all.

We can't say it often enough – volunteers are the heart of the museum. From tour guides to committees, from gardening to poppy making. The myriad of activities undertaken by all our volunteers in 2022 added up to an astonishing 3,500 volunteer hours – and that's only the hours we knew about. In economic terms, those 3,500 hours translates to a value of \$56,000. So you can see how that truly helps us to fulfil our overriding mission - preserving this community's history for future generations. And we couldn't do it without you.



happening at the museum

Doc Club News

Our Doc Club continues into the spring and new members are welcome to join at any time. Participants are sent links to watch the videos in their own time, and then join a scheduled Zoom meeting for discussions and debates. Zoom meetings are held on Friday mornings at 10am.

March - May Schedule:

March is International Women’s Month and we are partnering with RiverBrink Art Museum to present the following documentaries:

Friday March 10:

Mary Two-Axe Earley: I am Indian Again

Friday March 24: Five short videos that depict women artists that are game-changers, boldly creative, female-identifying or gender non binary, and all ‘originals’.

- i) Tattoos That Embody Culture
- ii) Tattoos Hurt - Nomi Chi, A Guide Through the Pain
- iii) CBC Arts: Who is the Real You?
- iv) Why Tazeen Qayyum is Willing to Suffer Joint Pain For Her Art
- v) Canada’s a Drag - Elle Noir, Halifax

Friday April 14: Filthy Rich

Friday May 12:

The Volcano – Rescue from Whakaari

The Doc Club will continue again in the fall of 2023. For more information, please contact Babs Worthy at bworthy@nhsm.ca or call 905 468 3912 with any questions.

Neighbourhood Walks

Fridays at 6 pm in May - Call to reserve as space is limited
\$15 General | \$12 Member | \$10 Enhanced Member

- May 5: Voices of Freedom with Jan King-Watson
- May 12: The Commons with Richard Merritt (2 hrs)
- May 19: Architecture with Brian Marshall
- May 26: Chautauqua with Rick Meloen

FAMOUS & INFAMOUS 2023:

Monthly Biography Discussion Group | 2 pm

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
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

UPCOMING LECTURES

VIRTUAL

MARCH 1 | 11 AM

Elizabeth LeBlanc, Julia Grcevic and Erin Ronfeld

Women Who Broke the Glass Forts

MARCH 8 | 11 AM

Linda Fritz

Historic Homes in Queenston

Visit notlmuseum.ca for details and registration links.

IN-PERSON

APRIL 20 | 7:30 PM

Peter Mulcaster

The Queenston-Chippawa Power Development - Construction of the Sir Adam Beck I Generating Station 1917 - 1922

MAY 18 | 7:30 PM

Shawna Butts

Historically Hysterical: A look at women’s health and health care

Email aklassen@nhsm.ca to reserve your spot.

13TH ANNUAL

Trivia Night

FOR NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

MARCH 30 at 7 pm

In-person trivia is back!
Make up a team of 6 or we can put you on a team.

Questions cover all genres.
Join us for a fun challenge!
Call 905.468.3912 to reserve your table.

Members-only Free event. Refreshments provided.



OBITUARIES

Joy Ormsby (1928-2023)

After moving to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1980, Joy soon became a regular researcher and volunteer at the Museum. As a member of the Town's heritage advisory committee from 1980 to 1991, she became an expert in researching the history of Town properties and preparing reports on behalf of the Museum. In the late 1980s, Joy served as program coordinator on the Museum's executive committee.

In 1997, she was named the first official Town Historian of Niagara-on-the-Lake. In the same year, she raised concerns regarding the development of a site that she believed had been the original homestead of Colonel John Butler. Archaeological examination discovered the stone foundation of the home built about 1782. Joy was a member of the committee whose efforts saw preservation of the lot in the St. Andrew's Glen sub-division and the erection in 2008 of a monument to Col. Butler. She also advised the Town on the establishment of a Municipal Heritage District in the Queen-Picton Streets area. Later she served on the committee, which succeeded in having the historic area of town named a National Historic District in 2003. As well, she contributed to the effort to have Willowbank in Queenston named a Historic Site of Canada.

In addition to her volunteering and research Joy authored, or co-authored several histories of the region. She also received numerous awards in recognition for her contributions, including Honorary Life Membership in the Niagara Historical Society (2002), the Town's "Citizen of the Year" in 2008, the Ontario Historical Society's Janet Carnochan Award in 2009, the Niagara Foundation's Living Landmark for 2010, and the Ontario Heritage Trust "Lifetime Achievement Award" (2010).

OBITUARIES

Mary Jane Catcher (1958-2022)

Jane first volunteered with us in our Theatrical Cemetery Tours with her husband, Tom. She soon became involved in other events like the Snowbirds, showing us her amazing attention to detail and organizational skills. Jane always had a beaming smile when she came into the Museum, and she will certainly be missed by everyone here and so many more in the community.



Above: Jane & Tom Catcher, dressed up as Ann Vansickle & William Duff Miller, in our 2019 cemetery tours. Below: Joy Ormsby receiving her Janet Carnochan Award from the Ontario Historical Society in 2009.

We're Digging for Gardeners!

As you know we have a wonderful crew of gardeners who maintain, plant, nurture and generally love the museum grounds, all year long. We'd love to have a few extra green thumbs to add to this great crew.

So, if you love digging in the dirt, please send your details and best availability to Babs Worthy:
bworthy@nhsm.ca



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*We were honoured to receive a
Niagara Biennial Award from
the Region for Outstanding
Outdoor Art for our 2021 NOTL
Poppy Project! We are grateful
to all of our volunteers who
dedicated hundreds of hours to
the project, Davey Tree Service
for their assistance, and to the
City of Niagara Falls Museums
for their contribution of
poppies to the project as well.*

The Act to Limit Slavery

In late January Canada Post released a brand-new stamp that honours Chloe Cooley, a Black woman who was enslaved in Queenston in 1793. Amid rumours of abolition in Upper Canada, her enslaver arranged to sell her across the Niagara River in New York State. Chloe screamed. She struggled. And she fought back against her imminent sale. Her actions didn't go unnoticed. There were several eyewitnesses to what happened to her, and they reported it to the provincial government. Months later the Act to Limit Slavery was passed, gradually abolishing slavery in the province.

This year is the perfect year to launch this stamp. It has been 230 years since Chloe fought back against her enslavement on the shores of the Niagara River. Sadly, the historical record doesn't tell us what happened to her, but this is not where her story ends. Even though Chloe would not benefit from the legislation, her screams left behind a legacy that helped open a route to freedom for those enslaved in the United States.



Chloe and her legacy will be explored further in our summer 2023 exhibition.

Sarah and I are very excited to be working on this exhibit in consultation with Natasha Henry, President of the Ontario Black History Society, and Rochelle Bush, trustee and historian of the Salem Chapel, BME Church in St. Catharines. We hope that this exhibition helps us learn more about the lives of those who were enslaved in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Image: New stamp of Chloe Cooley courtesy of Canada Post. We were honoured that Canada Post consulted with Museum staff on the development of this image to ensure its accuracy.

- Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator & Educational Programmer

President's Report

Hello Everyone,

Tiptoe through the tulips.... At least I'm hoping I'll be able to do this, as I planted my very first bulbs in late fall.... Wish me luck!

Spring is a season of hope and excitement. The neighbourhoods come alive in anticipation of the warmer months to come. To get ready, I have been busy keeping our elected officials up to date on our expansion project and our many activities. I thank them for their continued support and words of wisdom and encouragement.

Over the last few months, I have enjoyed attending a number of events, including History in the Vineyard, the

NOTL Museum's Brunch & Bubbly event for volunteers, and the Niagara Women in Business Awards, for which our Managing Director and Curator Sarah Kaufman was nominated and made the short list (congrats Sarah).

With a newly elected council, I would like to welcome Councillor Nick Ruller as the official town representative for the NOTL Museum. I would also like to thank Councillor Allan Bisback for his dedication and help over the last 4 years.

As always, I encourage you to stay connected to the museum.... there are so many ways to do that! I hope to see you at one of our many lectures, to visit the current exhibit, or join me in doing some shopping in our Gift Shop.

Take care,
Mona Babin
President of the Niagara Historical Society



FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

I have had several questions about the progress of our plans for expansion and renovation. The short answer is: things are going great!! The Site Plan Agreement phase is almost complete. The Project committee recently met with the architectural team to conduct a “redline review” to thoroughly assess the architectural, structural, mechanical, and electrical drawings. A video walk-through of the buildings is now available on our website. (notlmuseum.ca/capital-campaign) This year we will be engaging a consultant to assist with the interpretation plan for our permanent exhibitions. We look forward to the community’s input on this!

Along with our Board Members and campaign volunteers, we have had several conversations about the project and many generous community members have committed their support! We all know how ‘cozy’ it can be in Memorial Hall during our programs. It is time we have a proper space to enhance experiential learning for the young and the young at heart. For more on how this project will enhance our museum, read below. If you would like to support the **Building History, Strengthening Community campaign** and help the NOTL Museum grow, please reach out. I am happy to chat about our vision for the future and tour you through the changes!

- Sarah Kaufman

We will enhance accessibility to Niagara-on-the-Lake’s heritage by:

Engaging youth: Help us grow our youth programs to provide experiential learning beyond the classroom by expanding school visits and summer camps, and by developing March Break, PD day and after-school programs. Our local history is unique on a provincial and national level, which is not addressed in today’s curriculum. We plan to fill the gap through the use of a dedicated programming space.

Eliminating barriers: Increase social inclusion by becoming a barrier-free site with an elevator, access walkways and accessible washrooms.

Modernizing exhibits: Let’s broaden the history of our community by including significant Indigenous history, Black history, military, architectural and geographic history, and more, through fun and engaging interactive displays.

Increasing program capability: A new programming space would allow us to do more theatrical presentations, lectures, and hands-on collections and heritage workshops.

Opening the vault: Expand and improve our online presence, and through a dedicated research space, provide visitors the ability to interact with the collection. Expanding our storage space will give capacity to improve our collection and continue to ensure the safety of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s significant artefacts and archives.

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CONTACT US: Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum

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Barbara Worthy

Community Engagement
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

