



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **Mar 7:** Doc Club, 10 am
- ◆ **Mar 20:** Monthly Lecture, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **Mar 24:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **Apr 3:** Members' Trivia Night, 7 pm
- ◆ **Apr 4:** Doc Club, 10 am
- ◆ **Apr 5:** Land Registry Workshop, 9 am - 3:30 pm (exhibits closed)
- ◆ **Apr 17:** Monthly Lecture, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **Apr 28:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **Apr 30:** Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, 11 am—1 pm at Navy Hall
- ◆ **May 2:** Doc Club, 10 am
- ◆ **May 2:** Neighbourhood Walk, 6 pm
- ◆ **May 7:** Members' Exhibit Opening, 4-6 pm
- ◆ **May 9:** Neighbourhood Walk, 6 pm
- ◆ **May 11:** Bike Tour, 10:30 am
- ◆ **May 15:** Monthly Lecture, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **May 16:** Neighbourhood Walk, 6 pm
- ◆ **May 18:** International Museums Day
- ◆ **May 23:** Neighbourhood Walk, 6 pm
- ◆ **May 26:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **May 30:** Neighbourhood Bike, 6 pm

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HOLIDAY
RENTALS

Outreach and Engagement at the heart of the NOTL Museum

Community outreach and engagement is, as always, a priority at the Museum. And it comes in many disguises. From enjoying the company of strangers and friends at local events, to meeting everyone on zoom, to recording your own stories.



With that in mind we are developing an enriched Mennonite Oral History

Collection, courtesy of the "Library and Archives Canada's Documentary Heritage Communities Program". A collection of family stories has been gathered, transcribed, and complemented with audio video material, to bring awareness to the rarely told, courageous stories of the Mennonite immigration to Niagara in the 20th century. Produced by Babs Worthy and videographer Joe Lapinski, several families agreed to describe the horrors left behind in a war-ravaged Europe, displaced persons camps, prisoner-of-war camps, and destroyed communities. Stories of creating homes in the jungles of South America. And all of them stories of astounding bravery and miraculous family reunions.

The Mennonite community transformed Niagara, helping to build one of the most complex, richest and successful agricultural growing areas in Canada, and turned a small hamlet called Virgil, into a bustling, caring community, boasting multi-industries and businesses.

In the early spring we will share these stories with the community and look to the future as we continue to build this resource, and ultimately a permanent exhibit here at the Museum.

Image: The Andres Family, all 12 siblings, children of William and Elizabeth (Fransen) Andres. The Andres family settled in Virgil, after their parents and grandparents were forced to leave southern Russia.

happening at the museum

NEIGHBOURHOOD WALKS

Fridays in May at 6 pm

Date	Guide	Tour
May 2	Linda Fritz	Queenston
May 9	Tony Chisholm	The Waterfront
May 16	Rick Meloen	Chautauqua
May 23	Megan Gilchrist	St. Davids
May 30	Ted Rumble	Ordnance Boundary Stones on BIKE (limited to 10 ppl)



Trivia Questions about the Museum:

1. What kind of dog is Louie?
2. How long has Sarah worked at the Museum?
3. Is Shawna a student or a full-time employee?

FAMOUS & INFAMOUS:

Biography Discussion | 2 pm | \$10 or Free for members

Date	Speaker	Subject
Mar 24	Linda Fritz	Isabel Mackenzie King
Apr 28	Diane Kendall	Louisa May Alcott
May 26	Gwen Laing	Florence Nightingale
Jun 23	Mark Gaudet	Gertrude Bell
Jul 28	Craig Tallman	William Stephenson
Aug 25	Michael Clark	Pierre Elliott Trudeau
Sep 22	Tom Pekar	Billy Bishop
Oct 27	Betsy Masson	Alexander Niven
Nov 24	Judy Thornton	Coco Chanel

MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES:

March—September | 7:30 pm | \$15 or Free for members

Date	Speaker	Subject
Mar 20	Sarah Kaufman	Janet's Gems
Apr 17	Ron Dale	Every Survivor Has a Story: the War of 1812 Collection
May 15	David Servos	The Servos Family Journey - A story of bravery, loyalty, and determination
Jun 19	Cecilia Morgan	Artefacts and Archives: Hannah Owen Jarvis Hamilton and her Family, 1840s-1880s
Jul 17	Martin Cooper	9,000 Years of Niagara-on-the-Lake History: A View from King's Point
Aug 21	Rita Brown	The Fashion Collection
Sep 18	Shawna Butts	Museums: The Eras Tour

Faces at the Front Desk 😊

This spring you will also see some new and familiar faces at our Front Desk. The 'Front Desk' at the Museum has developed its own personality. Sometimes it's super friendly, and sometimes it's too busy for even a chat. But most of the time it has a warm inviting personality that we rather like. And to that end we have eight volunteers who will be your friendly faces at the desk, welcoming you, sharing Museum information, and helping you with all your queries. They are a crew of volunteers who have all decided a few hours a week helps keep them involved, and provides enormous assistance to our small staff. Please drop in and when you see a new face, congratulate them on taking on crazy random jobs, learning new computer skills or rebuilding old ones, and for being part of the Front Desk gang.

REPORT FROM THE CEO/CURATOR

2025 marks the 130th anniversary of the Niagara Historical Society. On a snowy December 12th, 1895, 15 residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake met in the library, located in the current Courthouse on Queen Street, to form what would be called the Niagara Historical Society (NHS). At the time, several people doubted the Society's ability to collect artefacts of significant interest, believing that everything had been given away or destroyed, or that no one would either give or lend anything for such a purpose. Fortunately, the newly formed Society, under Janet Carnochan's leadership, ignored these sentiments. Carnochan was, of course, our first President and later, curator of the NHS. What an amazing feat for this historical organization to have lasted so many years and still be stronger than ever. It is all thanks to our dedicated Board members, volunteers and staff who have kept this place going over the various eras of our organization. We have a few exciting ideas to mark this milestone for the Museum. I will keep it under wraps at this time until we launch the programming for the year!

I also wanted to highlight one of our staff members, Barbara Worthy. She received a well-deserved Women in Business Award in the Cultural Arts Category (pictured below). Babs has worked on engaging audiences at the Museum and in the community for many years. From the research that goes into creating scripts for our cemetery tours, to producing documentaries and leading thought-provoking discussions with the monthly Doc Club, from her passion for the Poppy Project, to the musical shows she has produced to engage audiences of all ages, Babs has helped us all fall in love with history. We're so proud of her achievements and on behalf of the organization I wanted to say congratulations!!

- Sarah Kaufman

The Ontario Land Registry: an Introductory Workshop with the Brown Homestead

SATURDAY
APRIL 5, 2025
9 AM - 3:30 PM

Join Brian Narhi, Jessica Linzel and Sara Nixon from the Brown Homestead for a full day workshop at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. Learn How to use the Ontario Land Registry online to research a property's history. Bring a packed lunch; laptops encouraged but optional.



Registration Fee
\$60
Limited seats available!

Reserve your spot
now by calling the
Museum!

905-468-3912

\$50 for members



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Biro, Lidija
Boot, Fran
Bosomworth, Robert
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Bourk, Joan
Breadman, Edward
Cameron, Maureen
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Christensen, Sheryl
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Clarke, Kristi
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Colwell, Andrew
Condina, Cosmo
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Crawford, Bailey
Dale, Susan
Dane, Jackie
Davis, Richard Whittaker
Davis, Sandra

Defoa, Chris
Denyer, Ruth
Deyholos, Richard
Dickenson, Penny
Diodati, Jim
Donnelly, Jackie
Downe, Phil
Doyle, Kevin
Earl, Christine
Ellis, Janice
Elrick, Maya
Emery, John
Finkle, Carl
Flett, Susanne
Ford, Lewis
Foster, Kevin
Fotheringham, Ruth
Francescut, Donna
Frayne, Sharon
Gagne, Lucie
Gallant, John
Gasbarrino, Elise
Gillespie, Marie
Golombek, Lesley
Goodale, Viorika (Vika)
Gorodezky, Aleksandra
Granger, Steven
Greco, Mary
Guay, Lucie
Hacking, Dede
Hall, Stewart
Harley, Laurie
Hartford, Jan
Hartwick, Shari
Hayes, Ashley
Heaman, Lynne
Heffler, Dana
Hemmings, David
Henderson, John Ross
Henderson, Sandy
Henry, Yolanda
Horta, Lia
Horton, Robert G.
Howling, Peter
Hugh, Deborah
Hughes, Carol
Hyde, Emily
Jamieson, Lauren
Janny, Jolanta
Jones, Julianna
Joyner, Geoffrey & Lorraine
Kemball, Nancy
Kevill, Jackie
Klassen, Lenore
Klimek, Cornelia
Klose, Liz
Knight, Jamie
Knipe, Patricia
Knoflook, Alysha
Kobylt, Emily

Spring 2025

Krahn, Catherine
Lamb, Janet
Lauge, Rai
Luczay, Marguerite
Lukic, Lucy
Lukic, Meghan
Lymburner, Amanda
MacDonald, Carolyn
Mace, Paul
Maclam, Christine & Lloyd
Macri, Nancy
Marchese, J'Neene
Marlow, Bernard
Marshall, Brian
Martin, Diane
Masales, Marlene
Masson, Elizabeth
McArthur, Blair
McCaughey, Robert
McIntosh, Carol
McLeod, Judith
McRae, Linda
Meloan, Rick
Monk, Kimberly
Moore, Dale
Mottram, Diane
Murdoch, Jeanette & Bruce
Napier Andrews, Nigel
Neame, Peter
Nord, Wanda
Northfield, Margaret
Novak, Daryl
Novick, Catherine
Nowina, Pamela
O'Brien, Anna
Oliver-Malone, Elizabeth
Osler, Ian
Palummieri, Franca
Partridge, David
Pellett, Audrey
Petrenko, Alexa
Pietrobon, Loretta
Porter, Jodey
Powers, Mary
Reece, Ian
Rhind, Karen
RiverBrink Art Museum
Robinson, Neil
Rothschild, Françoise
Rumble, Ted
Ryerson, John
Sanderson, Dinah
Santsche, Gail
Sayers, John & Judith
Scrivener, Patricia & Charley
Shiels, Margaret
Simmons, Edward
Simon, Peter
Simpson, Carter
Sitarski, Mary

Stevenson, Sonia
Stirling, Jim
Sweeny, Dave
Sweeny, Mike
Tait, Christine
Taylor, Marnie
Taylor, Mary
Thellmann, Charlene
Thornton, Judy
Topps, Alexander
Twigg, Ellen
Vanier, Leigh
Village Community Association
Vukovich, Daniel
Walker, Peggy
Walters, Wendy
Waters, Brian
Weaver, Murray
Wery, Susan
West, Rob
Whittal, Barbara
Whitty, Shawna
Wild, John
Wirth, Tonde
Zalepa, Gary
Zammit, Angelika

IN KIND

Adams, Graham
Allen, Chris
Ammari, Nancy
Ascenzo, Denise
Azadian, Ann
Barber, Sarah
Barr, Chris
BCD Travel
Bell, Dante
Bellis, Hilary
Betts, Jewell
Bonic, Jackie
Boot, John & Fran
Bradford, Jeanne
Brown, Tim
Budapest Bakery
Campbell, Margret
Chapman, Lois
Chateau des Charmes
Christensen, Sheryl
Clements, Elsie Mae
Clements, Jason
Cohen, Steve and Joe Carlino
Collins, Briar
Craig's Cookies
Denyer, Ruth
Derbyshire, Jim
Devlin, Shaun & Margot
Doyle, Heather
Driven Autoworkz Detailing
Fahlman, Diane
Fedorkow, Lou

Ferox Winery
Flood Ryan, Donna
Frankish, Leslie
Fritters on the Lake
Fuller, Heather
Garriock, Patricia
Gill, Caroline
Goettler, Lauren & Vaughn
Greaves Jams & Marmalades
Grooming Boutique
Guy, Janet
Hemmings, David
Hill, Joan
Hiscott, Bob
Howe, Marsha
Irish Design
Ironwood Cider House
Jago, Syme
Joyner, Lorraine
Juliet Amanda Dunn Entertainment
Just Christmas
Kaufman, Sarah & Chris
Kilmer, Mary
Klassen, Amy
Knight, Betty & Jamie
Knight, Bob & Sabina
Konzelmann Estate Winery
Labelle, Curtis
Legros, Nicole
Levene, Shirley
Luczay, Marguerite
Maavara, Mariitta
MacIntyre, Paul
MacNeill, Conor
Maimbourg, Rita
Mann, Kathy and Leslie
Martin, Karen
Masaro, Lynn
Masson, Betsy
McGaeghan, Patrick
Merritt, Richard
Milligan, Penny & Myles
MUST Boutique
Newark Brewing Company
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Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club
Nixon, Elaine
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Petrunick, Brenda
Pratt, Debi
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Rumble, Neil
Sant, Kerri
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Sears, Robert
Seeger, Albrecht
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Southbrook Vineyards
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Steele, Dee
Stephen, Dev
The Exchange Brewery
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Walker, Margaret
Webber, George & Audrey Pellett
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Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

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in memory of Barbara Challis

Boniwell, Kirsty
Hrycay, Susan
Petrie, Stewart

in memory of Lt. Col. Bernard L.

Nehring
Merritt, Richard

in memory of John Gardner

Goacher-Warren, Nigel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...

...continued from page 5

COLLECTIONS

- Allen, Chris
- Babcock, Peter
- Bowman, Judy
- Brunton, Willaim
- Crysler, Cynthia
- Dawe, Bonnie
- Fedorkow, Lou
- Gordon, Jane
- Jones, Karen
- Kobylinski, Roman & Lydia
- Lambert, Joy
- Lavell, Ron
- Likavec, Maggie
- McKee, Kevin
- Meloen, Rick
- Merritt, Dr. Richard
- Niagara Falls History Museum
- Pepin, Bob
- Ross, Maybeth
- Sant, Kerri
- Sayers, John & Judith
- Scott, Sherie
- Smith, Henry
- Spicer, Gale
- Town of Bracebridge
- Tunney, Debbie

PLANNED GIVING PLEDGES

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

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

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

- Linda and Ron Fritz Niagara Historical Society Endowment Fund
- NOTL Museum Fund at the Niagara Community Foundation

Collections Corner

CURATORS: OUR ERAS TOUR EXHIBITION

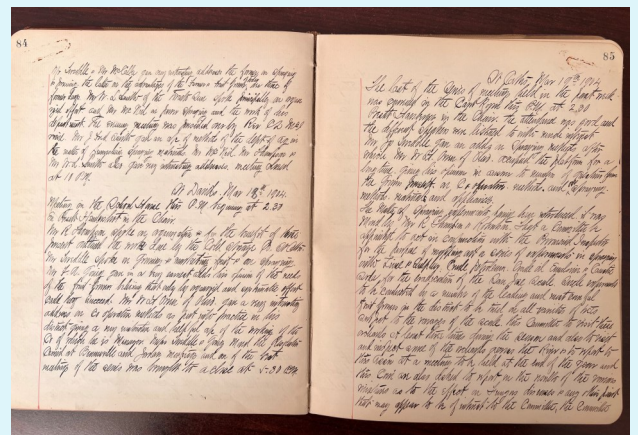
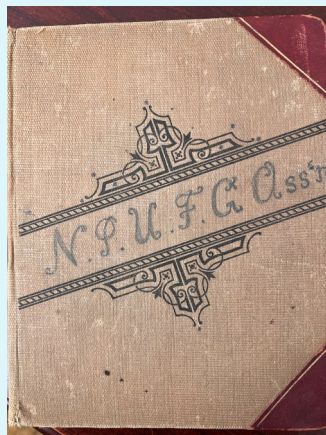
Have you heard of a little-known singer named Taylor Swift and her Eras Tour? This year, the Niagara Historical Society will be celebrating its 130th Anniversary, and for our 2025 exhibition, we're drawing inspiration from the Eras Tour by exploring the various curator eras and what they collected. We will be exhibiting items collected by Janet Carnochan alongside those collected by our current curator, Sarah Kaufman, and everyone in between.

In 130 years, we have amassed a collection of over 50,000 items, so there will be some unique and never-before-seen pieces on display! This exhibition will be on display starting May 1, 2025, and we will launch it for you, our members, on May 7th. So, mark your calendars now and look for our opening invitation in the coming months!

NEW ACQUISITIONS

We are very excited to add a series of early Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association minutes books to our collection. There is no denying that in Niagara-on-the-Lake the agricultural industry has had long-standing history in our community. The first agricultural society in Ontario was formed in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1792, and of course NOTL has been a large producer of tender fruit for well over a century, shipping much of it via the steamships that used to dock in town. So, there is no surprise that the Niagara Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association was established to bring fruit and vegetable growers together to discuss regional issues, and how to improve competitiveness and productivity within this sector. From grapes to peaches and asparagus, Niagara has experienced waves of fruit and vegetable productivity. There was so much they created a canned goods manufacturing industry that caused townships to burst with basket factories, canneries, and packing and cold storage warehouses.

While this association represented the entire Region, many farmers in NOTL were members. As our Monday collections crew makes their way through these books, ranging from 1896 through the 1920s, we will start to develop a picture of the issues and challenges they faced so that we can get a more fulsome idea of NOTL's agricultural history.



- Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator

NOTL Museum Capital Campaign Report

<https://www.notlmuseum.ca/expansion>

WE HAVE ACHIEVED A MILESTONE! Thanks to your generosity, and donations from community groups, the NOTL Museum was able to raise an additional \$150,000 to qualify for consideration from the Canada Cultures grant. **THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** The NOTL Museum CEO, Sarah Kaufman, has updated the federal government and we are waiting for confirmation of our first significant grant!



The new campaign cabinet held its first in person meeting on December 10th. Everyone was briefed on the latest developments and provided donor kits to fundraise within the community. We have confirmed the hard cost for our project and are waiting for an estimate on our soft costs. A team of volunteers has been working diligently to update our requirements. We can't wait to share the updated design with you!

Planning for a members information event is under way and we will confirm the date and location as soon as it's available. This will be your opportunity to find out about the changes, ask questions on the build, and find out how you can donate. We look forward to having you join us on our journey to our total fundraising goal.

If you have any questions about our Capital Campaign, please reach out to Sarah at skaufman@nhsm.ca. Stay tuned for more information!

- Sean Simpson, Committee Chair

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

As I sit here putting my thoughts together for the newsletter, I am looking outside at a very snow-covered landscape with the news that more snow is in the forecast. It makes me think about how tough and resilient our early residents would have been to make it through a winter as cold and snow covered as this one has been. They did not have the heating technology nor the friendly sidewalk snow remover, Scoop Dogg, that we have today which makes our lives quite a bit more tolerable than the generations who were here before us.

While some members are enjoying a well-deserved winter in warmer climates, the NOTL Museum staff, Board and volunteers have been hard at work planning interesting events that will help us celebrate our 130th Anniversary. I have had the pleasure of attending a few committee meetings that support the operations and governance of the Museum, and I am even part of the planning committee for the upcoming Heritage Garden party. Stay tuned to learn more about these

celebrations in the upcoming weeks and months.

In addition to some beautiful walks around the village, I have spent my winter getting to know the Museum and all our wonderful supporters better. These past few months have provided me with the opportunity to attend our Famous and Infamous Biography discussions and the February Virtual Lecture series on the homes and estates in our region that hold our fascination. Thank you so much to all our speakers for these events. I know it takes time researching and putting it all together.

Finally, the Capital Campaign Committee has been hard at work ensuring our expansion plans and fundraising efforts are continuing to get us closer to our goals. Thank you!

Thank you so much to our members, donors, and volunteers because without you, our future would not be possible.

Susan May Wery
Board Chair

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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.

CONTACT US: Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum

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Educational Programmer
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Barbara Worthy

Community Outreach
Coordinator
bworthy@nhsm.ca

Peter Wright - Maintenance Coordinator

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.

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