

MEDIA ADVISORY: “Open Drawer” project has made tremendous strides over the last four years (for immediate release)

Four years after the receipt of a generous Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, the Brockville Museum is very pleased to report that its Open Drawer project continues to be a roaring success! With the support of our community Brockville can now share its many stories in ways that were unimaginable even 10 years ago.

For many years the Brockville Museum has wished to make the many items in its collection more accessible to the public. The goal of the Open Drawer project is to put the museum’s entire catalogue of objects, documents and images online. The result is that the museum’s ability to share Brockville’s many stories is now much enhanced.

By going to the museum’s website anyone can search for objects and images that they might be interested in as well as the stories that accompany them. By using a simple keyword search using such things such as a family name or the name of a business or a school for example, anyone is now able to view the museum’s objects their accompanying stories. To date the collection database has been accessed over 4,000 times by people interested in Brockville’s past, which clearly shows that people have an interest in Brockville’s history.

The dogged determination of the museum’s dedicated volunteers has allowed the project to make as much progress as it has. To date over 50 volunteers have worked on the Museum’s Open Drawer project contributing over 7000 hours of labour, equivalent the work of one full-time person for 3-1/2 years! Over 15,000 items can now be viewed in the collections database through the Brockville Museum’s internet page.

This online database has also allowed the museum to share some of these objects and stories on social media, offering not only another way to share our stories. Social media also provides a way by which members of the public can share their own stories and knowledge.

The Open Drawer project is still a work in progress. There are still more objects and images to add and more information to compile. The museum is always looking for well qualified volunteers to help with this project. Specifically, the museum is looking for people with training in the care and handling of a museum collection, and experience photographing objects and/or working with a museum database.

“The Open Drawer project is ultimately about people and community” states Natalie Wood, Director/Curator of the Brockville Museum, “Brockville has many fascinating stories to tell. Sharing them can only lead to more people not only visiting the museum but also Brockville itself, which will benefit all of us.”

For more information on the project and to view the catalogue, visit www.brockvillemuseum.com.

Prepared Monday, February 5, 2018/4:00 p.m.