

2016

# Annual Report



Brockville Museum

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## **Mission Statement and Statement of Purpose**

### **Mission Statement**

The Brockville Museum is committed to preserving and promoting the history of Brockville through continuing quality exhibits and education programs. The museum activities are strongly supported by an expanding collection of related artifacts and archival material.

The Brockville Museum grows with, and for the community, providing a source of knowledge on the heritage of Brockville for present and future generations.

### **Statement of Purpose**

The Brockville Museum demonstrates how the City of Brockville has developed from the earliest times to the present. It also displays a wide variety of themes to include other cultures and topics not directly related to Brockville.

The museum has a responsibility to grow, mature and continue to evolve as a living, dynamic institution. In this respect its purpose is:

- To inform by means of museum exhibits, historical interpretive programs, research facilities, and publishing of written and visual materials.
- To accept by gift or acquire by purchase those items, documents and artifacts which have been made, sold or pertain to Brockville and provide facilities for their preservation, storage and exhibition.
- To preserve the museum collection by proper conservation measures.
- To maintain on-going cultural and educational programs to serve children and adults of Brockville.
- To provide visitors with the resources to gain knowledge of Brockville's history and have an enriching and memorable experience.

## Curator's Message

*Respectfully submitted by Natalie Wood, Director/Curator*

To say that 2016 was a busy year at the museum is an understatement. 2016 was the culmination of the planning that had taken shape in the previous three years. While 2015 had been about increasing the museum's visibility, both in terms of signage and public programming, 2016 was about make the most of the new profile and showcasing what a museum does best- tell stories. To this end, we opened three new permanent exhibits and hosted three travelling/temporary exhibits.

This ambitious exhibit schedule would not have been possible without the financial support of the Friends of the Brockville Museum who contributed over \$6,300 towards exhibits in 2016, in addition to the roughly \$1,300 that they contributed to museum advertising and conservation supplies. Other community partners also pitched in to make these exhibits possible, including the Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council and the Thousand Islanders Rug Hooking Guild.

Amidst the flurry that comes with such an exciting exhibit schedule, regular museum programming and operations continued, including the Criminal Past Walking Tours and Talk & Tea (both launched in 2015), and the Open Drawer Project. Volunteers continued to contribute weekly hours towards the painstaking data entry of photographic material into the online database while over 400 new objects were accepted into the collection. Efforts to reorganize collection storage spaces have produced some space saving results, allowing us to better store the objects in our care; however, the limited physical capacity of the museum building continues to be one of our greatest challenges.

A notable change for 2016 was the introduction of admission by donation. This move was designed to remove barriers to access, increase visitation, and reflect recognized successful models. We did see an 18% increase in general visitation between 2015 and 2016 and saw an 8% increase in admission revenue. It would be misleading to not attribute some of this uptake in visitation to the opening of the long-awaited Aquatarium, which opened in March; however, visitor surveys do not suggest that this was the leading factor. We also saw a 46% increase in website traffic between 2015 and 2016 (since launching our new site in late 2015).

While 2015 ended with the exciting 2016 budget commitment of making our Registrar/Admin Assistant position full-time, 2017 budget negotiations in late 2016 left us feeling deflated with what essentially translated into a cut to our operating budget. How the museum handles even smaller margins in most operating lines, will, no doubt, have a lasting impact on the overall operations of the community museum.

That said, we go into 2017 with optimism, and a plan for a busy, programming-centered agenda. Several new initiatives will be launched, all with the goal of increasing the museum's audience and revenues. Canada150 should generate a renewed interest in our history and we plan on capitalizing as best we can.

## Reports

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## Governance

The Brockville Museum is governed by a publicly accountable Board of Management, appointed by the City of Brockville. In 2016 the Board of Management met 10 times.

In 2016 the Board of Management was comprised of:

- Chairman: Brian Porter
- Secretary: Chuck Quick
- Council Representative: Jeff Earle
- Members: Dr. John Arnott, Daria Egan, Barbara Healy, Paul Naylor, Neil O'Brien

## Finance

The Brockville Museum is owned by the City of Brockville; as such, the museum's annual budget is approved by council. The Museum's 2016 budget was \$255,910 (although the actual was \$262,674).

Key Expenses <sup>1</sup> :	
<b>Staffing</b>	\$256,632
<b>Office Expenses</b>	\$12,556
<b>Physical Plant</b>	\$46,011
<b>Programming</b>	\$5,073
<b>Collections Management &amp; Exhibits</b>	\$18,455

Although the Brockville Museum is principally supported by the City of Brockville, the museum is responsible for raising a significant amount operating funds through donations, admissions, rental fees and through educational programming and special events. The museum also seeks other sources of funding including the Friends of the Brockville Museum and provincial and federal grants, including Young Canada Works.

Main Revenue <sup>2</sup> :	
<b>Donations, Admissions and Service Charges</b>	\$23,357
<b>Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG)</b>	\$27,176
<b>Programs and Events</b>	\$16,501
<b>Young Canada Works Grants (YCW)</b>	\$9,719

In 2016, the Brockville Museum received its annual Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) of \$27,176 towards operations; the Friends of the Brockville Museum donated \$7,660 for conservation supplies, exhibits, and advertising; and the museum received two Young Canada Works grants- one for two summer students and one for an intern (for October 2016- March 2017).

A copy of the 2016 Brockville Museum's general ledger report can be found in the appendix of this document.

## Fundraising

In order to meet our operational needs, the Museum undertakes fundraising initiatives throughout the year. These fundraising events also help garner community support for the museum and increase our visibility in the community.

The following chart shows the total monies raised at all special and fundraising events held by the Brockville Museum during 2016:

Date	Event	Net	# participants
<b>June 18</b>	Stetson Hat Dinner	908	31
<b>November 17</b>	Whisky Tasting	714	18

<sup>1</sup> Based on actual spent amounts  
<sup>2</sup> Based on actual revenue amounts

**The Friends of the Brockville Museum**, with the support of museum staff, also undertake fundraising initiatives every year to raise additional funds to help support museum programming. The following fundraising events were hosted by the Friends in 2016 (with revenue going to the Friends):

Date	Event	Net	# participants
<b>April 27 – May 8</b>	Book Sale	2083	not tallied
<b>August 16</b>	Raising a Glass- Beer Tasting	1392	59
<b>September 24</b>	Silent Auction	1748	48
<b>October 5</b>	Bus Tour	419	40



## Collections

*Respectfully submitted by Alison McMahon, Administrative Assistant/Registrar*

In 2016, volunteers continued working on the Open Drawer Project, entering in catalogue records for the Museum's Archival collection. Since 2014 (when the project got underway), a total of approximately 13,000 artifacts (3D and Archival) have been entered into the database, of that, roughly 5,000 have images attached. All new 2016 acquisitions have photographs attached, with summer students, co-op students and volunteers working on photographing the remaining collection, with new images being attached daily.

In May, the Museum was lucky to welcome back Ellen, the Collections Assistant who worked on recataloguing and photographing artifacts in the 3D Collection during the summer of 2015. In 2016, Ellen completed the recataloguing of all identified 3D artifacts. This process involved identifying artifacts that needed to be recatalogued, renumbering them appropriately and photographing them before placing them back in storage. During this time, proper documentation was adjusted to reflect any changes in numbering. Prior to Ellen's start in 2015, it is estimated that roughly 850 objects required renumbering, 300 of this was completed in 2015 with the remaining amount completed in 2016. Prior to her last day in August, Ellen also began recataloguing artifacts in the Museum's Archival collection. Similar to her work with the 3D collection, this required her to renumber, catalogue, and photograph/scan artifacts before placing them in proper archival storage, with a significant amount of time spent on entering in Newsletters from the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital.

In October, the Museum received a Young Canada Works grant that allowed for the hiring of a Collections Technician Intern to work on cataloguing the Cossitt Collection. This collection is comprised of 311 artifacts, the majority of which are stored at the Museum's Offsite storage facility. The Collections Technician Intern has worked to catalogue 186 of the 311; this includes photographing, researching history and properly storing the artifacts. Of the 186, 92 of them have been moved from Offsite storage to the Museum, either as a result of their condition or relevance to Brockville.

The Museum has received three co-op students during the 2016 year, two of which were a continuation from fall 2015. Co-op students photographed, inventoried and recatalogued items in the Museum's archival and three dimensional collections as well as contributed to the dismantling of exhibits.

The Museum accepted approximately 413 objects into its permanent collection during the 2016 year, from a total of 58 donors. Not included in this number is the collection of negatives from the Murray & Son and Lawrence Redmond photographic studios. Staff and volunteers are currently in the process of reorganizing and reassessing this collection as it is dropped off. This collection will most likely remain in storage until the Museum has the time and resources to properly scan and catalogue the entire collection.

Lastly, the Collection Committee deaccessioned approximately 250 objects during 2016. These items were either gifted to more appropriate public institutions, moved to the research or costume collection or placed offsite until a more suitable home can be found.

## Exhibitions

Building on our 2013 Interpretive Plan, we started to make considerable changes to our permanent exhibits in 2016. We opened three new permanent exhibits, effectively making over the Beecher House exhibit space entirely. To compensate for the necessary room closures associated with transforming the permanent exhibit spaces, we also brought in three travelling exhibits. These travelling exhibits were sponsored and supported by community partners: the Friends of the Brockville Museum and the Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council sponsored the “Seeds in Disguise” exhibit from the ROM (in addition to obtaining a MAP grant to help cover the costs), while the 1000 Islanders Rug Hooking Guild sponsored the “Barn Raising Project” exhibit from the Simcoe County Museum. The Friends of the Brockville Museum also helped to fund our permanent exhibits in addition to a handful of private donors.

Exhibit	Description	Dates	Location	Type
<b>Brockville’s Rail Story</b>	Brockville’s railway station has served as a dynamic meeting point between Brockville’s wealthy citizenry, industry and ordinary people.	Opened February 15, 2016	Beecher House	Permanent
<b>Seeds in Disguise: the biology and lore of ornamental seeds</b>	Travelling exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum	February 15-May 6, 2016	Annex	Travelling
<b>People of Brockville</b>	Brockville has been home to historical figures, wealthy business leaders and ordinary people who have made a difference in their community.	Opened May 4, 2016	Beecher House	Permanent
<b>Brockville’s Sporting Past</b>	Brockville has a rich sporting past (and present) that brings people together	July 6-September 16, 2016	Annex	Temporary
<b>Ontario’s Sporting Past</b>	Travelling exhibit from Archives of Ontario (used as a foundation for Brockville’s Sporting Past)	July 6-September 16, 2016	Annex	Travelling
<b>Brockville’s River Story</b>	Brockville’s waterfront has served as a dynamic meeting point between Brockville’s wealthy citizenry, industry and ordinary people.	Opened September 12, 2016	Beecher House	Permanent
<b>Barn Raising Project</b>	Travelling exhibit of traditional hooked rugs depicting rural Ontario scenes. From the Simcoe County Museum.	September 20-October 14, 2016	Annex	Travelling

2016 was most definitely a busy and ambitious year for exhibit development, but we achieved all the goals we set out. We will continue to roll out new and redeveloped exhibits in 2017 and 2018, but at a slightly more moderate pace as we shift focus over to programming.

## Interpretation & Education

*Respectfully submitted by Amy Mackie, Interpretation and Public Programs Coordinator.*

2016 was another successful year for programming at the Brockville Museum. We brought back some recent initiatives (walking tours, Talk & Tea) and had continuing support for our perennial favourites (lecture series). We also removed programs that have not generated good return (summer camps) without seeing any decrease in income. In fact, our net income rose 4% over the year before. In total, we presented 207 programs – only 7 fewer than in 2015 - with a combined audience of 3338 people.

This report outlines the highlights for 2016 as well as gives an outline of the types of programs we offer to the community.

### *Types of Programs*

The Brockville Museum offers a variety of programs (each will be addressed in turn in this report). The majority of programs are for the older members of our community. We classify the type of program in the following categories (with the percentage offered in 2016 indicated):

- Hospital (includes Artifact Therapy and BGH Day Hospice) 24.1%
- Nursing Homes (includes St. Lawrence Lodge, Sherwood Park Manor, Rosebridge Manor and Maplevue Lodge) 16.9%
- Walking Tours (refers to our 'Brockville's Criminal Past' weekly tours & group bookings) 8.2%
- School Groups (includes all school visits, of all ages, both on and off site) 9.1%
- Homeschool (refers to the Country and Community Stories program) 8.6%
- Heritage Camps (includes March Break and our in-house Summer Camps) 1.4%
- Seniors' Residences (this refers to Fox-Run and the CPHC Day Hospice program) 14%
- Speaking Engagements (refers to guest speaker events for local service clubs and interest groups) 4.3%
- Lectures (includes our annual Adult Lecture Series and Author Talks) 3.8%
- Birthday Parties (on-site events) 0.4%
- Youth Groups (includes Guides, Scouts, day camps, etc.) 3.3%
- Talk & Tea (a new initiative to provide programming 'free with admission') 4.8%
- Other (includes special events, off-site group programming, workshop instruction, etc.) 0.4%
- Sleepovers (a program offered only to Guides and Scouts) 0%

### **Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Seniors' Residences**

Representing 55% of the total number of programs presented (an increase of 7.5% from 2015), seniors programs are an opportunity for expanding the museum's collection (artifact donations as people downsize) and a way to bring the museum's message to the community. For the participants, it allows them to socialize and to share stories. Often, this will give us ideas for new programs.

We regularly present programs at the Brockville General Hospital's Garden Street Site. There are two groups that receive programming at this location: the BGH Day Hospice Program and Artifact Therapy. The Day Hospice ladies participated in 6 programs in 2016.

The long-running Artifact Therapy program turned 29 years old in 2016. Over the course of the year, 43 different presentations were delivered at the site. This successful program, generously funded by the Rotary Club of Brockville, continues into 2017 with new topics developed to complement those that are being re-used.

The presentations that are developed for the Artifact Therapy program are used for speaking engagements and monthly visits to local nursing homes and seniors' residences. Programs are regularly presented at St. Lawrence Lodge in Brockville, Fox-Run-By-The-River near Gananoque, Rosebridge Manor near Jasper, Maple View Lodge near Athens and the Adult Day Program run by Community and Primary Health Care (CPHC). New in 2016, Rosedale Retirement Residence in Brockville has requested that we provide them with monthly programs.

There will be a few changes to scheduling in 2017 to accommodate staffing the museum and increasing program requests. Rather than visiting Rosebridge and Fox-Run monthly, we will now see them every-second-month. This measure will also reduce our overall mileage claims.

In all, the nursing and retirement homes received 64 programs in 2016. Due to illnesses and outbreaks, 5 additional programs were cancelled. This shows how popular these programs continue to be. They also are an important steady year-round income for the museum.

### **Homeschool**

The Country and Community Stories program is specially designed for the local Homeschool group. Every month, students come to the museum for a program looking at the larger themes of Canadian history and what was happening locally during that time. This program started in the 2010-2011 school year and was so popular, there were two groups (older and younger) participating in 2011-2012. In 2012-2013 students and families received their own presentation of The Ballad of D'Arcy McGee and for 2013-2014, the program expanded once again to include 4 different 'age' groups.

In the 2015-2016 school year, we ran both the Step 1 and Step 2 (previously known as the older and younger) classes every month.

In the 2016-2017 school year, enrollment shifted to have more preschoolers, so we ran the Beginner classes every-second-month and Step 2 monthly.

In all, there were 17 homeschool sessions presented in 2016.

### **School Groups**

School groups from as far away as Newburgh and Kingston participated in our programs this year, in addition to the Brockville area schools. A couple of the out-of-town schools also visited the Aquatarium and were looking for other activities to fill in a full day away from school. We hope to see this trend continue as more school visits come to Brockville.

In total, this meant 500+ children took part in our programming in 2016: an increase of about 100 participants over last year. It is interesting to note that private schools (St. Lawrence Academy and Heritage Community Christian School) are yearly supporters of our programs alongside Public and Catholic schools. 9 were Brockville schools and 9 were schools from outside of Brockville.

Even with an increase in programs, for the first time in my tenure more programs were presented off-site than on. This reflects the cost of busing as much as convenience for the teachers (many of the off-site programs were within Brockville City limits). Of the 19 programs presented in 2016, 11 were off-site.

One of the off-site offerings was a special set of programs presented at Prince of Wales to coincide with their 225th anniversary. Over the course of 3 days, all the students in the school participated in the Victorian Summer Games program and we were invited to be part of their anniversary open house.

This year's Holiday Traditions program returned but without a complementing exhibit. Instead, focus was placed on Beecher House as a family home. Despite this shift in how we offer the program, there was no discernable difference in how students and teachers reacted to the program. Most were appreciative that they were able to explore more of the museum than our programs generally allow. With the new permanent exhibits in the museum, we will offer a program without a special exhibit again in 2017.

In total, 19 programs were presented in 2016 (note: this number refers to number of programs, not classes. i.e. if two classes came together on a bus, it was counted as one program, not two). The programs presented were: 6 for Victorian Summer Games, 4 for Unwritten Histories (First Nations), 4 for A Beecher House Christmas, 2 for Settler Games and 1 of each Museum Tour, Walking Tour and GeoHistory: Battlefield Brockville.

### **Heritage Camps**

In 2016 it was decided to retire the summer camps. We had found that they were too time-consuming and costly to continue given the low enrolment. However, we once again offered a March Break camp.

Our March Break program was offered as part of the travelling exhibit on seeds from the ROM. We had 6 children join us to look at seeds, with special focus on the exhibition.

After compiling the numbers at the end of this year, there was no financial impact from not offering the summer camps. In planning for 2017, March Break camps will also be phased out to allow focus on new initiatives.

### **Speaking Engagements**

Throughout the year, the museum is asked to address groups and service clubs. In 2016, there were 14 of these speaking engagements for local church groups, historical societies and more. This is more than double last year's presentations. The speaking engagements represent another way to promote upcoming exhibits and events as well as building community relations for the museum.

## **Lectures**

Our largest adult education program is the Annual Winter Lecture Series held every Tuesday in February and the first Tuesday of March. The Lecture series remains as popular as ever, bringing in 349 people for all lectures – a 22% increase over 2015. Due to a snow storm, one lecture was presented twice to allow others to attend. This made the average audience for the six lectures 58 people.

In addition to the Lecture Series, Dr. John Carter – who was in town doing research on the rebellions of the 1830s – delivered a special lecture on the subject. 29 people were in attendance and Dr. Carter also contributed an article to The Monitor.

## **Birthday Parties**

Birthday party numbers continued to trend down in 2016. We are getting many requests, but we are unable to accommodate parties on weekends in the fall-winter-spring. We hosted 1 party in 2016.

## **Youth Groups & Sleepovers**

Many other groups took part in programming this year which do not fit into our regular categories. These include the Scouts (Beavers, Cubs) and Girl Guides (Sparks, Brownies) that visited for the A Beecher House Christmas program. We also ran the walking tour for a group of Pathfinders. There were no sleepovers this year.

Finally, some of the day care and other child minding groups regularly schedule programs in the summer. This year, the Brockville Gymnastics Academy returned as part of their summer programming.

In all we hosted 7 youth group programs in 2016.

## **Talk & Tea**

This year we continued the value-added program called “Talk & Tea.” On the second Thursday of the month, we offer a 45 minute presentation (free for members, \$2 for non-members) for anyone to attend. These are not formal lectures; they are the same programs that were originally developed for Artifact Therapy. The programs are more laid back and allow for questions, discussion and the sharing of stories. We presented 10 of these programs in 2016 – some presented by guest speakers, hence the name change from ‘Tea With Amy’ from 2015. Attendance ranged from three to thirty-nine participants. This will continue into 2017 (with a hiatus during the Lecture Series).

## **Walking Tour**

Brockville’s Criminal Past walking tours, with some new stories, returned in 2016. The start-times were adjusted to be 3:00 and 7:00, but we found that the earlier tours did not have strong attendance and we will return to 4:00 and 7:00 in 2017.

Including a 'dress rehearsal tour' run as a Facebook competition, the tour ran 17 times. We only had to cancel one tour due to no audience and one due to staff illness.

The tour did become onerous for staff following the unexpected departure of our summer student. To run the tours, the Interpretation & Public Program Coordinator presented the early tour and our summer student from 2015 or a volunteer presented the late tour. This offering will continue in 2017 with new stories and a focus on Canada150.

### Other

In April, the '3 Brockville Soldiers at Vimy Ridge' program returned to Encounters with Canada (a program of the Historica-Dominion Institute) in Ottawa. This program brings 100 students from across the country to Ottawa for a week's worth of themed sessions. The program we were asked to deliver was for Vimy Ridge week. This archive-based session has been well-received and it was the sixth year we have presented this program. The cooperation will continue into 2017.

### Summary

Overall, 2016 proved to be one of the most successful for programming since I started here in 2007. Our programs were delivered with the help of museum staff and our wonderful volunteers. 3338 people were in attendance for the many varied programs that we offer. In all, profit for education programs was just over \$12,400, an increase over 2015. Recognizing that this was the second year for the walking tours and phasing out of summer camps, higher revenue shows us that we continue to find an audience because of the consistent quality of our core programs.

Compared to the 2007 total of 147 programs, we see that our programming volume has increased substantially over the past 9 years. This trend looks to continue as people hear about the worthwhile programs that we offer to visitors of all ages at the Brockville Museum.

## Research

*Respectfully submitted by Jean Mather and Margaret Lawrence, Volunteer Researchers*

There were 73 requests for information submitted by members of the public to the Brockville Museum in 2016. These are handled by staff members and two volunteers, with the latter working on Thursday mornings. Files containing newspaper clippings and other materials collected over the years, books from the museum library and items from the museum archives are used to answer these queries.

The topics are many and varied. New home owners are frequently eager to learn about past occupants of their dwellings or changes made to the structures over the years. A home on North Augusta Road, one on Cochrane Drive and another on King Street West were among those researched this year. Information was requested on other buildings, included the hotel at Hillcrest and the Strathcona Hotel. Certain industries pop up regularly. James Smart Manufacturing, whose products were distributed far and wide, and St. Lawrence Engine Company are among those that can be counted on regularly. The Brockville Business College is another business that comes up frequently, although our file on this one is not extensive. This year there were also requests about the Pickle Factory on Blockhouse Island, the clock tower, the railway tunnel, Kyle's and St. Lawrence Park to name a few.

Among the individuals for whom information was requested were Major General Brownfield, Major Walsh and Robert Wright, the artist.

When an item is brought in for possible accession by the museum, research is often needed to determine its history. Among the many items this year, a small jewelry box with the jeweler's name and "Brockville" clearly printed in the interior proved puzzling until a very small news item was found concerning a robbery at that establishment, helping to date and locate the business. The Museum Educator also uses the material in the files and books to prepare her presentations.

Considerable progress has been made this year in our effort to reduce the time it takes to search the files. "Miscellaneous" files are being itemized on the computer index so that searchers are able to use "find" to ascertain quickly where to look. Margaret Lawrence has devoted many hours to this project. Topics currently in the news are collected on an ongoing basis so that information will be available in the future.

As volunteers, our goals include increasing knowledge of and interest in Brockville's past by providing answers to questions posed by the public, freeing up staff by helping with what are sometimes time-consuming searches for information which they need and keeping the files in order so that material can be accessed readily.

We look forward to continuing with this interesting and challenging work in 2017.

## Conservation

No significant conservation treatments were carried out in 2016, however, the Friends of the Brockville Museum continued to support conservation efforts at the museum by purchasing archival and other materials which safeguard the museum's diverse collection.



## Physical Plant

The Brockville Museum's physical plant includes a c.1820s heritage stone house and a 1995 addition. Each portion of the building carries its own set of unique characteristics and needs with regards to maintenance.

In 2016 the Brockville Museum was granted a fairly strong capital budget. This allowed us to build on some of our 2015 projects and take on some new ones:

- Work that started in 2015 on repainting the museum's exterior was completed in 2016. This included the north-facing stucco wall on Water Street.
- The emergency exit door in the rear Beecher House basement (in the Genealogical Society library) was replaced in 2016. The old wooden door was removed, the sill was raised (to reduce the possibility of water penetration), and a new steel door was installed.
- Throughout 2016 we undertook a number of painting projects in Beecher House as we made over the exhibit spaces. Once the exhibit rooms were emptied, the plaster was repaired and the walls were painted. The 1980s wallpaper that had been installed in the hallway and stairwell of Beecher House was also removed. The walls were repaired and painted. Combined with the work in the office area that was carried out in 2015, all of Beecher House (with the exception of the kids room and the basements) has been re-painted.

As always, there were also a series of minor repairs that were required:

- In May we were alerted to some damage at the Caboose. The Plexiglas window on the south entrance had been pushed in. Entry was not gained. The window was repaired and there were no further issues.
- In December an out-door tap burst. It had not been turned off (inside) and the deep freeze had caused it to burst.
- We also had another leak in the lobby where the addition meets Beecher House on the west side, caused by an ice dam. Doug Moore continues to make adjustments to the downspouts and installing metal flashing to help prevent this problem in the future.

The limited physical capacity of the museum building continues to be our greatest physical plant challenge. We simply do not have the space to continue to acquire large donations of objects and documents. This message was delivered to Council in the spring and the story was picked up by the Recorder and Times. Despite this attention, no progress was made. We continue to use deaccessioning and storage re-organization as our primary tools for finding more space.

## Community

*Respectfully submitted by Viktor Kaczowski, Community Engagement Officer*

Building on the museum's much-increased community presence during the previous year, 2016 focused on messaging and explaining to the community not only what we are but what we do and how we do it. The unveiling of three new permanent exhibits have been a key part of better illustrating the themes that comprise Brockville's story.

The greater use of social media and the internet allowed us to create a new online program "BMuse" which allowed us to explain some of the behind the scenes processes and why we do the things the way we do. The online portal to our collection through the extensive work on the Open Drawer Project has given the community far greater insight into what we have and what we are about than we have ever had before.

Improved access and better messaging has allowed the community to both better understand our needs, such as how we select donations for our collection, and some of our limitations, such as the growing pressure on our limited amount of storage space. The museum's spectrum of services and variety of programs continues to be indicative of its responsiveness to local needs and requirements.

### Statistical Summary of Visitation and Museum Usage

# visitors	hours open	days open	# incoming tours	# workshops	# room rentals	# website visitors
<b>1725</b>	1962	287	6 (270)	91 (618)	24 (402)	8531

### Admissions

In 2016 the Brockville Museum implemented a new "Admission by Donation" system by which visitors were given the option to leave a donation for their visit. Based on results from other museums, this had the desired effect with an 18% increase in general visitation over 2015 and an 8% increase in admission revenue.

### Hours of Operation

The museum's winter and summer regular hours of operation resulted in the museum being open to the public on 287 days totaling 1962 hours during 2016. The museum's hours were:

- Victoria Day to Labour Day: Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm & Sunday 1pm-5pm.
- Labour Day to Victoria Day: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm.

### User Groups

The following community groups called the Brockville Museum home in 2016:

- The Leeds & Grenville Genealogical Society
- United Empire Loyalists

In addition, the following groups met regularly at the Museum:

- Artistic Stitchers
- Basket Weaving Guild
- Creative Mondays
- RCAF Sabre Wing 450
- Seaway Ship Enthusiasts

All of these groups support the museum's activities and events. These community groups have chosen the museum because of its location, parking, accessibility, kitchen facilities, sound system, and most importantly the many networking opportunities.

### Special Events

As part of its ongoing commitment to engaging its community, the museum once again hosted a variety of programs, both onsite and offsite. In 2016, the following events were held at the museum (a complete list of all special events, exhibits, and fund-raising events is included in the appendix).

The following community events were held onsite:

- February 15, Family Day
- May 4, Dutch Day of Remembrance
- May 15, Perth Settler's Trek (the Museum served as staging ground)
- May 28 & May 29, Doors Open Ontario
- September 14-17, Tall Ships Festival
- October 1, Culture Days

### Volunteers

Our volunteers continue to be vital to our success, not only with regards to the extensive amount of programming that the museum undertakes, but also with respect to the curatorial and archiving duties that are fundamental to the museum's raison d'être and the day-to-day upkeep and maintenance of the museum. Fortunately, the museum continues to retain a very solid base of volunteers.

Volunteer areas of responsibility at the Brockville Museum include the following:

- Board of Management
- Collections Management
- Education Programming
- Visitor Services
- Docents
- Maintenance
- Gardening
- Fund Raising
- Bakers
- Servers
- Friends of the Brockville Museum Executive

### *Recruitment*

The total number of active volunteers during 2016 stood at 91. Over the course of the year, 13 new volunteers (adult and student) were added to the roster, the majority of which were involved in visitor services, collections management and the Open Drawer project. Twelve volunteers were dropped off the roster primarily because they had either fulfilled their volunteer or co-op requirements or they had found employment.

These new volunteers included 3 high-school students (1 co-op and 2 regular), most of whom completed their volunteer requirements within the calendar year.

For the past 17 years, clients of Career Services have been providing volunteers to the museum. In 2016, the museum had two such volunteers, one helping with maintenance and one who is scanning images.

A strong community presence, word-of-mouth, and the museum's website continue to be the most effective way of sustaining our volunteer base.

### *Training*

Recurring training sessions continue to be undertaken with visitor services refresher training sessions were held in November 22 and December 2.

### *Recognition*

The efforts of our volunteers were formally recognized at the provincial level in a ceremony held at the Brockville Golf and Country Club on June 15, 2016. Anniversary pins are distributed as part of the Ministry of Culture's Volunteer Service Award program. Four museum volunteers were recognized at this event.

The museum's annual volunteer appreciation event was held the afternoon of November 15, 2016 at the museum. This was very much a social event with tea and baked goods made by the staff being served. The staff also organized three activities to help both staff and volunteers get to know each other better which were well received.

There were 21 volunteers in attendance.

### *Hours*

Our volunteer hours decreased in 2016 as compared to 2015, to 4685. This decrease is due primarily to having fewer co-op students combined with an increase in paid staff (including student interns) as well as a decrease of the number of volunteers involved with the Open Drawer project.

The average number of hours committed by each volunteer has remained relatively consistent over the years, and has averaged 58.0 hours/year over the last 5 years.

Work on the collection continues to make up the majority of the museum's volunteer efforts: 2050 hours or 43.8% of total volunteer hours. Community accounts for 1748.5 hrs. or 37.3%, with the

remaining 18.9% of volunteer efforts being taken up by education (3.8%), physical plant (10.1%), and governance (5.0%). These proportions are similar to those seen in 2015.

### **Outreach**

The museum remains committed to reaching out to as many people as possible utilizing diverse means such as direct advertising, television and radio appearances, public presentations, social media, and of course, one-on-one conversations.

### ***Television and Radio Appearances***

During 2016 museum staff made 11 television appearances and 14 radio stints to promote museum activities, including CBC's Ontario Morning regarding the search for the film "Centennial Salute".

While Cogeco and CFJR have been the focal points of our media presence, new entrant DCE Media has created Hometown TV 12 and invited the museum to have a significant presence there. The result is the creation of BMuse: a new feature with host Amy Mackie talking about events, exhibits or things behind the scenes at the museum with all being broadcasted online. This is a continuing effort with new clips being recorded every few weeks. By the end of 2016, 10 clips had been created.

### ***Print Media***

The Recorder and Times, St. Lawrence EMC, and SNAP 1000 Islands gave the museum excellent coverage over the course of 2016. The Recorder & Times gave the museum particularly good coverage in June when they ran an article on the museum's space issues.

### ***Website Presence***

The museum's web site continued to serve as a resource for the public at large. The total number of website visitors for 2016 was 8531, an increase of 46% over the previous year.

In addition to our own website, the museum also published on 8 other website's online event calendars, including Tourism Brockville, SNAP 1000 Islands, EON, Cogeco, Recorder and Times, Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, 1000 Islands International Tourism council, and the DBIA.

### ***Social Media***

The Brockville Museum maintains active social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. We also have our own YouTube Channel. In addition to cross-posting on multiple platforms, our social media is accessible by buttons on our website.

*Facebook:* By the end of the year, we achieved almost 200 additional page likes to bring the total to 724. As expected, most of our followers are from Brockville with South Augusta, Ottawa, Kingston and Athens being the top five locations of our fans. The amazing power of this medium also means that we have followers in Canada as well as 14 different countries.

The most viewed posts were those that had to do with familiar landmarks and people. The most read post of 2016 was of the Easter Bunny & The Flower Shop Reg'd TBT with more than 5228 views. Following that was CFJR's anniversary (4283) and the Coronation Parade (3206). There were 12 more posts that achieved a reach of more than 1000.

Most of our posts receive 200 or more views and are shared on other sites like SNAP and EON. In return, we also share their posts – especially since their photos of events are often better than ours.

One of the interesting trends we found with our page is that the demographic of our followers is exactly the group we often lament not being able to contact. Like last year, the largest group of followers to the museum page are women between the ages of 35 and 44 (at 17%).

In 2016, we utilized the Facebook 'Events' feature more often. Other groups that share our posts (Downtown Brockville, Tourism) have indicated that they have found sharing events to be more productive than posts alone.

Of note, we took out a few paid ads. The ad seemed to work well for the Beer Tasting, but the timing for the Scotch Tasting didn't give us as much return. Advertising on Facebook and how to do it effectively will be explored further in 2017.

Going forward we will continue to keep our Facebook page updated regularly. In general, Facebook remains a great way to advertise our events. We will continue to intersperse the events with things that are of general interest, this remains a priority for the museum this year.

*Twitter:* 2016 marked the first full year that the museum had a presence on Twitter. Although still a secondary platform to Facebook, we are broadening our reach through this forum.

Twitter allows the museum to take part in events that aren't recognized as widely on Facebook (i.e. #museumselfieday, #museumrainbow). We now have 58 followers and have received a number of retweets – especially those relating to artifacts in the collection. We have also noticed that more check-ins and mentions come from Twitter over Facebook.

This audience may not be as large as the one on Facebook, but it continues to grow.

*YouTube Channel:* At present we have 10 subscribers to our channel. In total, there are 16 videos posted and the most popular in 2016 was of market day in 1967. Note that many of these videos are shared via Facebook first, so they have more viewings there than when they are added to our channel.

Primarily, the videos were produced as part of a new cooperation with HomeTown TV12. Videos are filmed monthly about how the museum works, our upcoming events and other stories and are edited into short segments entitled 'Bmuse.' The videos are shared by HomeTown TV12 on their social media and the links shared to ours. Every couple of months, these videos are uploaded to our Facebook page and YouTube channel. This partnership will continue into 2017.

### ***Partnerships***

In August 2015, the museum launched an initiative to better co-ordinate the activities of other local heritage-related organizations, including the Public Library, Heritage Brockville, and the Leeds and Grenville Genealogical Society. In the spring of 2016 the committee published a guide called "Heritage Pathfinder" for researchers interested in Brockville's history. The guide describes the various

institutions that possess information relating to Brockville's history, the strengths of their holdings, and the services they can provide and is available on all of the participant's websites.

The museum sent a representative to speak to the Board of Trustees and volunteers of the Remington Museum in Ogdensburg NY. As they were interested about how we ran our volunteer program as well as finding ways to be mutually supportive.

As part of a Friends of the Brockville Museum initiative, volunteer Doreen Barnes, with the support of COGECO, Brockville's local cable TV, has embarked on an initiative to interview local citizens of interest. While not specifically an oral history project, this is a vehicle for getting some interesting individual stories out into the community. The museum is assisting by providing lists of potential interviewees and guidance as needed.

### **Incoming bus tours**

As part of our services, the Brockville Museum has special programming available for group tours. These are generally referred to as Incoming Bus Tours. Some groups that arrive by bus and request a guide to point out highlights as they drive around the downtown core. For others, they want to come and visit the museum.

For downtown bus tours, we offer a step-on guide (one of our volunteers) to coordinate the route and commentary. For on-site visits, each group is welcomed to the museum with a brief presentation highlighting our message and the exhibits. As add-ons, groups may choose to have an informal lecture (like Talk & Tea), participate in our walking tour or have tea.

One of our long-time tour visitors have been St. Lawrence Cruise Lines. Although we did not see as much of this group in 2016, there were encouraging signs that they will be returning more regularly in 2017.

In total, six incoming bus tours were received by the museum for the 2016 season for a total of 270 visitors. Of these tours, 3 were museum tours and 3 were city bus tours. There were no teas booked during 2016. This compares to 10 tours received by the museum in 2015.

## Human Resources

### Staffing

In late 2015 we asked council to make our part time Administrative Assistant/Registrar position full time to address our staffing and operational needs. Effective January 1, 2016, the Brockville Museum now has three permanent full-time employees and one permanent part-time employee, additional contract staff are hired as funding permits (i.e. Young Canada Works, weekend students). We also hosted three high school coop students in 2016.

2016 Staff Included:	
<b>Curator/Director</b>	Natalie Wood
<b>Interpretation and Public Program Coordinator</b>	Amy Mackie
<b>Administrative Assistant/Registrar</b>	Alison Dingledine-McMahon
<b>Community Engagement Officer (PT)</b>	Viktor Kaczowski
<b>Summer Students</b>	Ellen O'Dair (Young Canada Works) Katelyn Ressler (Young Canada Works)
<b>Intern</b>	Jessika Tozer (YCW- October 2016-March 2017)
<b>Summer Weekend Students</b>	Christopher Van Dang Darby Gilroy Emily Tobin (walking tours)
<b>High School Co-op Students</b>	Jhames J. (St. Mary- Fall 2015-Winter 2016) Lea R. (South Grenville- Fall 2015-Winter 2016) Katrina R. ( St. Mary- Spring 2016)

This year's summer season posed a number of challenges. One of our YCW summer students resigned in early July. Then, at the end of July, one of our weekend students resigned, expressing a desire to keep her weekends free. Permanent staff were in a position where they had to divide up the weekends and holidays to ensure that there was coverage through to Labour Day- putting a great deal of strain on staff. These resignations and general poor availability on the part of the students forced us to once again re-examine our summer staffing options. After discussions with HR we formed a new strategy for 2017: the Museum will not be subject to the City's pool of student candidates, and we will be able to advertise our positions independently of the City's, and we will not be required to hire students for the weekend position.

### Professional Development

The Brockville Museum continues to take advantage of professional development opportunities as they become available and when our limited budget allows.

Perhaps the most notable PD achievement this year was the Interpretation and Public Program Coordinator's completion of all the course requirements for the Ontario Museum Association's Certificate in Museum Studies.

The Curator/Director began the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario's (AMCTO) Municipal Administration Program (MAP). Two of the four courses were completed in 2016.



## Appendix

- i. 2016 General Ledger
- ii. Exhibit Plan
- iii. 2016 Event Listing
- iv. Statistics Chart
- v. Chronology of Events (1970-2016)
- vi. In the News
- vii. 2016 Monitor Newsletters

# General Ledger

CITY OF BROCKVILLE

GL Department Report

GL5330

Date : Feb 08, 2017

Page : 1

Time : 10:50 am

BROCKVILLE

CITY OF THE 1000 ISLANDS

Year : 2016

Period : 12

Budget : Budget Values

Description	CC1	Current	Year To Date	Committed	Budget	Variance	% Used
MUSEUM							
770022 Museum-Ont Specific Grants		0	-27176	0	-27176	0	100
770031 Museum-Fees & Service Charges		-678	-23357	0	-26100	-2743	89
770401 Museum-Wages & Benefits		0	-9719	0	-4000	5719	243
770617 Museum-Cossitt Estate		-1000	-1000	0	0	1000	0
770618 Museum-Programs		-1636	-16501	0	-25000	-8499	66
770401 Museum-Wages & Benefits		16820	256632	0	248419	-8213	103
770415 Museum-HR Mgmt		0	1604	0	3060	1456	52
770425 Museum-Office Expense		990	12556	0	11545	-1011	109
770131 Museum-Building Burden		7549	46175	0	49212	3037	94
770615 Museum-Curatorial		32	5493	0	5600	107	98
770616 Museum-Exhibitions		1037	12962	0	11050	-1912	117
770617 Museum-Cossitt Estate		18	618	0	0	-618	0
770618 Museum-Programs		591	5073	-122	9300	4349	53
MUSEUM Total		23724	263360	-122	255910	-7328	103

## Exhibit Plan

Topic/Theme/Title	Date(s)	Location	Type
Made in Brockville: Philips Cables	Installed August 2013	Upper Gallery	Semi-permanent
Made in Brockville: Dairy	August 2013-May 2015	Upper Gallery	Temporary
Hat Exhibit (Remodelled)	Installed December 2013	Upper Gallery	Permanent
Wartime Photos of Col. Curry (WWI anniversary theme)	November 2014-September 2015	Annex	Temporary
50 Years of the Flag	February 2015-August 2015	Beecher House	Temporary
Made in Brockville: various products	Installed June 2015	Upper Gallery	Permanent
Made in Brockville: Automatic Electric	Installed June 2015	Upper Gallery	Semi-permanent
The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats (National Library of Ireland-Brockville Irish Cultural Society)	August 2015	Beecher House	Travelling
Stitching Expressions (Artistic Stitchers)	September 2015	Beecher House	Temporary
Holidays on the Home Front (WWII anniversary theme)	October 2015-January 2016	Annex	Temporary
River and Rail (Phase I: Rail)	Open February 15, 2016	Beecher House	Permanent
Seeds in Disguise (ROM)	February 15, 2016-May 19, 2016	Annex	Travelling
People of Brockville	Open May 4, 2016	Beecher House (rear)	Permanent
Ontario's Sporting Past (Archives of Ontario)	July 4-September 18, 2016	Annex	Travelling
River and Rail (Phase II: River)	Install September 2016	Beecher House	Permanent
Barn Raising Project (Simcoe County Museum-Brockville Rug Hookers Guild)	September 20- October 14 2016	Annex	Travelling
How Brockville Celebrated the Centennial	January 4, 2017-December 30, 2017	Annex	Temporary
Pieces of Brockville (Phase I)	Install Spring 2017	Lobby	Temporary
River and Rail (Phase III: Block House & Tunnel)	Install August 2017	Beecher House (Hall)	Permanent
Ice Storm Remembered	January 2018	Annex	Temporary
Pieces of Brockville (Phase II)	March-October 2018	Annex	Temporary
Kid's Room (Remodeled): "Newcomers"	TBD	Beecher House	Permanent

## 2016 Event Listing

**January 14<sup>th</sup>** – Talk and Tea – Amy presented “Postcards”

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Adult Lecture Series – Phil Chadwick presented “Tom Thomson was a Weatherman”

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** – Adult Lecture Series – Andrea Jackson presented “Digging up the Past: Confessions of an Ontario Archaeologist”

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** – Family Day and opening of Brockville’s Rail Story exhibit (in the former St. Alban’s Room)

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** – Temporary exhibit in the Annex from the Royal Ontario Museum “Seeds in Disguise”

**February 16<sup>th</sup>** – Adult Lecture Series – Doug Smith presented “History of Railways in Brockville”

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Adult Lecture Series – Dale Kristensen presented “New Perspectives in Plant Ecology & Biology”

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Adult Lecture Series – Cheryl Wells presented “Icy Blasts to Balmy Airs: Reactions to Lincoln’s Assassination”

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Seaway Ship Enthusiasts –guest speaker Doug Smith presented the first ship named “Brockville”

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** – Adult Lecture Series – Doug Smith did a repeat presentation of “History of Railways in Brockville”

**March 15 -17<sup>th</sup>** – ‘Sow Many Seeds’ March Break Children’s Program

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** – Guest lecturer Dr. John Carter presents ‘The Result of Rebellion: North American Political Prisoners in Van Diemen’s Land’

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** – Talk and Tea – Amy Mackie presented “Brockville’s Skyline”

**April 18<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>** – Friends of the Brockville Museum Annual Used Book Sale

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** – Dutch Remembrance Day/Liberation Day ceremony

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** – Opening of People of Brockville exhibit (in the former Skiff Room)

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** – Talk and Tea – guest speaker Ted Rafuse presented "Rails across the River", a look at the rail car ferry services from Brockville and Prescott between 1860-1970.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Perth Settler’s Trek (the Museum served as staging ground)

**May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>** – Doors Open (free admission and behind the scenes tours)

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Seaway Ship Enthusiasts – guest speaker Jim Cameron presented his journey on CSL St. Laurent

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** – Talk and Tea – Amy Mackie presented “Spring Wildflowers”

**June 18<sup>th</sup>: “1946 Stetson Dinner”** – a recreation of the 1946 Stetson dinner to honour their war veterans held at The Wedgewood

**Fridays in July & August** - “Brockville’s Criminal Past” historical walking tours presented by the Brockville Museum

**July 4<sup>th</sup> – September 17<sup>th</sup>** – Ontario’s Sporting Past, a travelling exhibit from the Archives of Ontario and objects and stories from the museum’s collection

**July 14<sup>th</sup>** – Talk and Tea – Amy Mackie presented “Butterflies”

**August 11<sup>th</sup>** – Talk and Tea – Amy Mackie presented “Fishing”

**August 16<sup>th</sup>** – Raising a Glass for the Brockville Museum fundraising event (Friends of the Brockville Museum)

**September 1<sup>st</sup>** – Seaway Ship Enthusiasts – Viktor Kaczkowski presented 40 years of ship images from his camera

**September 8<sup>th</sup>** – Talk and Tea – Amy Mackie presented “Preserving the Harvest”

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** – Opening of Brockville’s River Story exhibit (part of the Tall Ships Festival Sept 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>)

**September 20<sup>th</sup> – October 19<sup>th</sup>**: 1000 Island Rug Hooker’s Guild presents the Barn Raising Project, a colourful display of fibre art; a travelling exhibit from the Simcoe County Museum.

**September 24<sup>th</sup>** – Friends of the Brockville Museum’s Annual Kitsch and Collectibles Silent Auction

**October 1<sup>st</sup>** – Culture Days (the Brockville Irish Cultural Society hosted talks and demonstrations)

**October 5<sup>th</sup>** – Friends of the Brockville Museum Bus Tour to Exporail, the Canadian Railway Museum near Montreal

**October 13<sup>th</sup>** – Talk and Tea – Amy Mackie presented “Mother Barnes”

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** – Talk and Tea – Amy Mackie presented “Local War Memorials”

**November 18<sup>th</sup>** – “A Whisky Tasting” fundraising event

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Seaway Ship Enthusiasts –guest speaker Doug Smith presented the third ship named “Brockville”

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** – Talk and Tea – Amy Mackie presented “Carols”

## Statistics Chart

### 2016 Statistics Brockville Museum

Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
General Admissions	39	90	43	82	101	133	404	328	304	146	30	25	1725
running total		129	172	254	355	488	892	1220	1524	1670	1700	1725	
Incoming Tour Groups					47		45	41	51	46			230
running total		0	0	0	47	47	92	133	184	230	230	230	
Youth Programs	78	6	30	12	176	147	35			59	11	235	789
running total		84	114	126	302	449	484	484	484	543	554	789	
Seniors Programs	109	165	165	171	161	204	95	92	208	154	191	129	1844
running total		274	439	610	771	975	1070	1162	1370	1524	1715	1844	
General Interest Progra	8	235	126	42	13	33	9	5	17	39	38	41	606
running total		243	369	411	424	457	466	471	488	527	565	606	
Workshops	42	23	60	70	79	51	48	50	56	69	65	15	628
running total		65	125	195	274	325	373	423	479	548	613	628	
Community Outreach													0
running total		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
On-Site Events				411	164	57		136	79	84	16		947
running total		0	0	411	575	632	632	768	847	931	947	947	
Off-Site Events						31	80			40			151
running total		0	0	0	0	31	111	111	111	151	151	151	
Facility Rentals	26	78	14	14	69	25	21	25	52	55	16	20	415
running total		104	118	132	201	226	247	272	324	379	395	415	
TOTALS	302	597	438	802	810	681	737	677	767	692	367	465	7335
Genealogy Visitors	45	42	62	65	65	72	76	75	69	54	43		668
running total		87	149	214	279	351	427	502	571	625	668	668	
Research Requests	3	3	7	3	6	6	12	9	7	8	8	3	75
running total		6	13	16	22	28	40	49	56	64	72	75	
Website Visitors	520	640	883	701	782	758	975	961	657	570	405	473	8325
running total		1160	2043	2744	3526	4284	5259	6220	6877	7447	7852	8325	
Volunteer Hours	497.75	322	411.75	451	342	408	329.25	364.5	392.75	405.25	413.5	268.5	4606.25
running total		819.75	1231.5	1682.5	2024.5	2432.5	2761.75	3126.25	3519	3924.25	4337.75	4606.25	

## Chronology of Events

- 1970 Re-establishment of the Brockville & District Historical Society with the stated intent to establish a permanent museum.
- 1972 First summer museum set up by the Museum Committee of the Brockville & District Historical Society. Located at the Catholic Centre, Court House Square.
- 1973 Second summer museum set up in the old yacht club building on Block House Island.
- 1974 Summer museum located at 24 Home Street attached to the oldest stone home in Brockville. Both properties slated for demolition, therefore, not considered as a permanent home.
- 1975 Negotiation by Museum Committee for a permanent building. Victoria School seems a strong possibility. Permanent collection placed in storage in this building.
- 1977 Victoria School sold to another bidder. Central Canada Coal Co. property becomes available. Beecher House is main building on this property. Purchased by the City of Brockville for the purpose of establishing a museum. Historical Society contributes \$12,000 to purchase price. Brockville Museum Board of Management established under the Ontario Museum Act.  
First meeting of the Brockville Museum Board as established By-Laws 181-77 and 59-77 of the Corporation of the City of Brockville.
- 1978 Museum Board commissions feasibility study for the conversion of Beecher House into the Brockville Museum.
- 1980 Feasibility study completed.  
Summer museum established in Cameron's Mill, Sheridan Mews as Beecher House is still occupied by Central Canada Coal as tenants .
- 1981 Basic retrofitting of main floor of Beecher House for use as gallery space.  
June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1981 - Official Opening of the Brockville Museum.  
First full-time professional Director appointed  
Brockville Museum Statement of Purpose developed.
- 1982 Brockville's Sesquicentennial, Celebration of Brockville's incorporation in  
Collection policy and procedure established.

Continued repair, renovations to Museum building.

- 1983      Brockville Museum Master Plan completed under Community Development Program of the Federal Governments Archaeological dig in c1815 section of Beecher House. Name of the Museum enlarged to clarify unique mandate. *The Brockville Museum, a Museum of Social History*® (In practice, however, this name has not been used nor has this aspect of the Museum been clearly recognized or developed).  
Exhibit policy established.  
Staff training policy established
- 1984      New position established. First part-time Museum Assistant hired to develop extension develop extension and education programs.  
First permanent gallery for local history mounted.  
Documentary photograph project for collection.  
Research policy established.  
Brockville Museum is open year round.
- 1985      Renovation to non-public space; small lab space, kitchen and new general office created .  
Membership plan developed for the Museum.  
Archives established as separate collection.
- 1986      Environmental control renovations completed.  
Two heat pump systems installed, interior magnetic storm windows installed.  
New Director appointed.  
Education and Interpretation policy established.  
Computer and new office equipment donated by the Historical Society.
- 1987      Museum membership established.  
Interior decorating/upgrading temporary galleries.  
Planning for renovation to permanent gallery.
- 1988      Attempt to set up '*Friends of the Brockville Museum*'  
Drainage project and renovations to c1815 basement to be used as a programming area.  
Planning for Brockville Railway Tunnel Historic Site to be administered by the Brockville Museum.  
Museum Caboose open.
- 1989      New Director hired October, 1989.



- Historical Society gives Museum buggy made by Canada Carriage Company.  
Drainage project completed.  
Annual report compiled.
- 1990 Policies reviewed, Fundraising Policy prepared.  
City Capital commitment over, now maintenance.  
Canada World Youth at Museum.  
Temporary exhibits continue.  
Initiated Long Term Planning.
- 1991 Raffles/Yard Sales begin as Fundraiser.  
New exhibit in permanent gallery.  
Section 25 Grant - Photographer, Archivist, Oral History.  
Painting exterior, 1840 section.  
Director attends Planning Workshop.
- 1992 Video: *Brockville, Where the "Past is Present"*.  
Planning started for the establishment of a 'Friends' group
- 1993 Roof and masonry repairs.  
New Tunnel exhibit.  
Incorporation of Friends of the Brockville Museum emphasis on Fundraising in 1993 - two raffles, hamburger sales , Pennies for the Past  
Storage at crisis level.
- 1994 Increased number of In-house programs.  
Proposals by the Strategic Planning Committee for construction of an addition.  
Produced T.V. Show for Cable 10 '*It's About Time*'.
- 1995 New addition completed. Official Opening Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Re-location of archival and 3-dimensional artifacts to new building.
- 1996 Significant growth in volunteer core with Volunteer Guild being formed.  
Summer student producing Walking Tour pamphlet '*Around The Town*'  
Increased activity of Friends of the Brockville Museum including the administration of membership.
- 1997 Change in staffing to one full-time Director, part-time Administrative Assistant, part-time Volunteer/Special Events Co-ordinator, as well as part-time Education Co-ordinator.  
Summer student designed Museum Web page with cross reference to

Genealogical Society.  
Children's short stories written about Historical Brockville entitled  
*"Emma's Journey Into Brockville's Past"*.

- 1998 Change in staff designation from Volunteer/Special Events Co-ordinator and Education Co-ordinator to Museum Assistant.  
Cemetery Tours held each week (Monday) during summer months.  
Summer student set up River history research and developed education program.  
Policies reviewed and revised.  
Storage areas re-organized.
- 1999 Museum participated in 'Job Connect Program' in co-operation with St. Lawrence College. This student began entry of archival material on computer.  
Two research students with 'Youth Services Canada' were stationed at The Brockville Museum.  
Summer student completed seven oral histories of Canadian War Brides.  
Exhibit Committee formed.  
MAP Grant assisted with the expenses incurred on window restoration in Beecher House. Students enrolled in the Heritage Restoration Program at Algonquin College made this project possible.  
The largest special event of the year was Halloween Fright Night which brought 1500 people.  
Cataloguing team has all artifacts catalogued to date.
- 2000 The new year started with a record number of people attending the Mayors New Year's Levee.  
Our summer student achieved a great deal in a very short time. He designed a Brockville Museum Web Page for children and carried the theme into a hands-on component for children visiting the museum.  
Algonquin College students completed their restoration of windows in the 1845 section of Beecher House.  
A new shingled roof was put on the back section of Beecher House.  
Four Queen's University students chose the Brockville Museum to study our education services.  
This year the Halloween Fright Night brought 1200 people.  
Retired Judge John Matheson spoke to over 100 Grade 5 students during the Flag Day Celebration .
- 2001 Marked the '20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary' of the Brockville Museum. Part of the Celebration was the unveiling of the 'Briscoe Car' by the Brockville Industrial Heritage Foundation.

Pine floors in Beecher House were restored.  
The recording of military plaques, monuments, cairns, etc. was started.  
Due to the closure of Fulford Home, changes to the Psychiatric Hospital and Public Utilities, the collection expanded a great deal.  
A Co-op program student from B.C.I. & V. S., Christopher Birtch, made a valuable contribution and in turn, he learned many marketable skills.  
Museum Director, requested by the Ontario Museum Association, was a guest speaker at the Annual Conference.

2002 With the closing of S.C.I. (Sanmina), the moving of the Recorder and Times to their new building and with the numerous donations of artifacts and archival material, storage areas are becoming cramped.  
The volunteer Garden Committee was duly recognized for their hard work by winning the '*Communities In Bloom*' Award for the best public building gardens.  
The first '*Doors Open Ontario*' was held and was considered a great success with over 3000 visits.  
Almost new exhibit cases were donated by S. C.I.  
The sign on the front lawn, a gift from the Friends, was designed by Keith Heine of Heritage Signs.  
Two new furnaces installed in Beecher House.  
Education Co-ordinator position became full time for 10 months.  
Procter and Gamble completed gardening, carpentry work, painting, cleaning, etc. during '*The Day of Caring*.  
Meetings held with Ontario Archivist, Tom Belton, to begin the work in City Hall on the Records management/ Archival Collection.  
Hosted an Ontario Museum Association workshop for the ministry of Culture Standards for Community Museums in Ontario.

2003 The return of the 1871 Fire Pumper from Gravenhurst was met with a great deal of excitement.  
The beautifully restored Briscoe car was officially donated by the Industrial Heritage Foundation.  
*The Community In Bloom* again recognized the museum for the flower beds, shrubs and trees that adorn the museum.  
The museum joined with other groups to host the first Brock Days Festival.  
This was the second year for Doors Open Ontario. Over 3,000 people attended.  
The 1945 Brockville Fire truck was put in the museum storage unit along with the horse-drawn carriage.

2004 The museum participated in the Downtown Santa Claus parade,

Multicultural Festival, Brock Days and Doors Open Ontario.  
 Adult lecture series was well received. Special guest speaker, Flora Macdonald drew a large crowd.  
 The Collection Committee was pleased to receive a large collection of R. H. Lindsay items, marriage certificate, photos, paintings, decorative box to name a few.  
 Work continues with Dr. Glenn Lockwood and the History Book Committee in producing the '*History of Brockville*'.  
 The Friends of the Brockville Museum and the Brockville Community Foundation have made it possible for people to make bequests to the museum, donate real estate, stocks and bonds, cash, life insurance policies, art, etc.

2005 Another successful House and Garden Tour sponsored by the Friends of the Brockville Museum.  
 The museum participated in the Santa Claus Parade, Multicultural Festival, Mayor's Walk, Brock Days and Doors Open Ontario.  
 Thanks to the Brockville Community Foundation, the new Gallery Theatre was opened.  
 The garden sprinkler system was made possible by the generous donation of Procter and Gamble.  
 Artist Studio Guild Show and Sale brought 514 people to the museum.  
 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of the Canadian Flag was held at the Art Centre for local school children. Excellent news coverage.  
 Local fire department took the fire pumper to the 1000 Islands Mall for Fire Prevention Week

2006 The year was marked with several events celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Brockville Museum. A large blue and gold banner was mounted on the north wall for all to see. Staff and volunteers started to think seriously of future physical growth and notes were made under the title '*Securing the Future*'. A sub-committee of the Board of Management was formed to begin investigating the opportunities for physical growth.

2007 This year the digitizing of the collection began. Working with the city MIS department staff and volunteers purchased new computers and set up the new program. The front foyer saw a marked improvement with a new desk, allowing for better traffic flow and giving a more professional and welcoming appearance. The introduction of the Young Interpreters Program has given young students an important role in the museum. Acting as guides during Doors Open Ontario, performing puppet plays for youngsters, helping with summer programming are just a few of the tasks undertaken. One of the most significant changes in 2007 was the

formation of a steering committee, to explore future physical expansion.

- 2008 Thanks to the “Canadian Museum Association” – ‘Young Canada Works’ grant the museum was able to hire a student to write fifteen oral histories and prepare them for publishing. The gardens surrounding the museum were exceptionally beautiful this year thanks to volunteers, assisted by the Leeds and Grenville Brain Injury Group. The Brockville Farmers Market, the Downtown Business Improvement Association and the museum presented “Christmas In Downtown Brockville” with most activities taking place at the museum including the indoor market which bought 758 people over three weekends.  
The first ‘Family Day’ event was held and was very successful.  
The military mural was officially unveiled on May 24<sup>th</sup>, Doors Open Ontario, event.
- 2009 The Second oral history book “Brockville Voices Book II” was published. From this came the creation of an oral history committee – a group of volunteers dedicated to the collection of these all important stories of Brockville’s past.  
Moving the collection in the off-site storage unit to another site went very smoothly. The 1945 fire truck was not a problem for the two firemen.  
Museum Educator position becomes year-round, full-time.
- 2010 The proposed developments for the Henry and Water Street areas surrounding the Brockville Museum raised concerns over the possible loss of the Henry Street parking lot. Museum staff completed a parking lot report which was sent to the Mayor, Council, CEO, Planning Department, Economic Development and the museum board. Also of concern is the future expansion of the museum. A museum consultant, Fiona Graham of Goldsmith Borgal and Company Ltd. was hired to review the needs assessment completed by staff and volunteers. She made a site visit and produced an expansion study. Three possible options for expansion of the Henry Street site were given.  
On July 8 a banquet was held inside the Brockville Railway Tunnel to celebrate the anniversary of the tunnel. This event was a tremendous success. The Friends of the Brockville Museum sponsored this event, donations from VIA Rail and CN helped to cover the costs, the food and beverage was representative of 1860 and was beautifully presented. Most participants were in costume and musicians performed at the entrance of the tunnel. The large white tent, the white linens, crystal, china and flowers all added to the ambience.

A new furnace was installed and part of the roof on the 1995 addition was replaced. The gardens were once again a beautiful site for residents and tourists to enjoy thanks to museum volunteers.

Two very large archival collections were received. The McCormick shipping and the Ian Inniss photography collections were welcome additions however an enormous amount of work and considerable dollars were needed to even begin sorting, cataloguing, storing and promoting.

2011

One of the major concerns this year was the lack of any development on the west side of Henry Street, opposite the museum. A steel fence surrounds a very large pit which continues to be filled with green water. Visitors very naturally want to know what is to be built and local residents want to know 'when'. The developer, along with the City Planner and the Fire Chief, visited the museum and made recommendations for changes to the entrance of the museum. The developer has offered to pay for the work which is needed. This will be completed when construction begins on the proposed condominium.

Volunteers and staff recognized the need for a technology committee. A member of the City MIS department agreed to be on this committee as an investigation into new management systems continues.

Community/Volunteer Co-ordinator started a new group for 'shipping enthusiasts'. This was prompted by the acceptance of the 'McCormick Collection'. Another example of how artifacts and archival materials are used to create public interest.

2011 marked the museum's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A special booklet was designed for distribution to restaurants, hotels/motels, and for the museum visitors.

2012

In 2012 we were concerned with the lack of development on the west side of Henry Street. Finally, in November a sales office was completed and sale of the proposed condominiums has begun. The large steel fence is still on the side of the street but more care has been taken in ensuring it does not intrude onto the roadway.

Working with Save Ontario Shipwrecks, the museum was able to obtain a month of amnesty from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for the acceptance of marine artifacts. This was a most interesting project, providing Brockville Museum staff and Save Ontario Shipwrecks volunteers the opportunity to work together and to realize the two organizations are interested in preserving and interpreting our past even though we come to the subject from different areas.

Several new fund raising initiatives proved to be profitable, entertaining and fun. These include the bus tour to Wolfe Island, the boat cruise to Cornwall, a great book sale and a pizza night at Boston Pizza just to name

a few.

- 2013 After 27 years with the Brockville Museum, Bonnie Burke retired and Natalie Wood was hired as the new Curator/Director.  
There was still no development on the condominium slated for the west side of Henry Street. In fact, the "Wayfare" project, as it is known, was put on "long-term" hold in December. The future of the site is unknown. Thanks to the tremendous talent and dedication of volunteers the museum's collection of film was digitized. Some of the footage was turned into a nearly two hour feature film, "Brockville's Reel Heritage: Our City on Film 1920-1980". The film debuted at the Brockville Arts Centre on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to a crowd of nearly 400. The film was then made available for sale on DVD.  
The roof on Beech House (c.1840 portion) was replaced with shingles matching those on the 1995 addition.
- 2014 "Open Drawer" Project was officially launched, with over 5,000 three dimensional objects being entered into the new MINISIS online catalogue (project paid for by Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant and significant contribution by the Friends of the Brockville Museum).  
Museum Clerk/Typist, Cathy Bigalow retired from the museum after nearly thirty years. Job description re-evaluated.  
Sprinkler system in the garden was removed and the stone retaining wall at the front of Beecher House was re-pointed.
- 2015 Web page redesigned, along with new rack cards and exterior signage  
Launched the new initiative, "Brockville's Criminal Past" Historical Walk Tour to much success.  
The exterior board and batten sections of the 1995 addition received a new paint colour.  
Office area was painted and the floors refinished  
Administrative Assistant/Registrar position becomes full-time (effective 2016)
- 2016 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Brockville Museum! (A special booklet was designed and distributed to promote the anniversary)  
Adopted an "admission-by-donation" model (and saw an increase in attendance and admission revenue).  
Three exhibit spaces were entirely made-over: plastering, repairs, painting, new exhibits installed: The People of Brockville, Brockville's Rail Story, and Brockville's River Story.  
The long-awaited Aquatarium opened in March.



## In the News



### Museum lecture series begins with big crowd

There was a full house at the Brockville Museum last Tuesday for the opener of the 2016 adult lecture series. Artist and meteorologist Phil Chadwick, right, delivered a fun and interactive presentation about Canadian icon Tom Thomson and how weather and nature inspired his paintings. Next up in the weekly speaker series is Doug Smith, who will talk about Brockville's Railway History on Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. The Tuesday lectures run until March 1. Audience members are asked to sign up in advance due to high demand. Call the museum at 613-342-4397 or email [awhitehorne@brockville.com](mailto:awhitehorne@brockville.com).



Submitted photo  
Amy Mackie, interpretation and public program co-ordinator at the Brockville Museum, shows Prince of Wales students how to work an 1890s-era toy known as a thaumatrope.

## Prince of Wales prepares to mark 125 years

Students at Prince of Wales Public School in Brockville got a taste last week of what play was like before the age of Xbox.

Grades 1 and 2 students enjoyed an 1890s-era "end of school year" party on Tuesday, playing games such as bean bag toss and croquet. The program, led by Brockville Museum interpretation and public program co-ordinator Amy Mackie, was held for students to celebrate Education Week, and as a lead-up to the Prince of Wales 125th anniversary celebration slated for this Saturday, May

14. "For the 125th, we want to put students in the mindset of what play would be like for kids at that time," said Mackie of the games. "What's interesting is that these are all very low-tech games (compared with the games of today) and yet kids can have just as much fun with them." The students enjoyed making thaumatropes – little toys comprised of a string, with a two-sided paper circle glued to the centre. The circle bore a drawing of a bird on one side and a cage on the other. When the string was

twisted, causing the centre paper to spin, it produced the optical illusion that the bird was actually in the cage. At another station, the children enjoyed making low-tech, homemade ice cream in a small plastic and metal globe using just ice, salt, sugar and cream. The Prince of Wales 125th anniversary celebration is an open house that will run from 1 to 5 p.m. and will feature historical displays, heritage games, entertainment by the band Healy and Orr, a magician, Elvis impersonator, barbecue, and more.

Source: UCDSB

## Museum now 35

Brockville's store of treasures past looks back and forward to exhibits

ALI WILSON  
THE RECORDER AND TIMES

More than three decades ago the Brockville Museum opened as a gathering place for the celebration of the area's heritage, today the museum is flourishing with new exhibits, programs, and experiences for all ages as it celebrates a 35th anniversary.

On Tuesday, members of the community gathered for an open house and cake to celebrate those 35 years of commitment to preserving the city's vast heritage.

Among the guests was Mayor David Henderson. Henderson spoke highly about the work staff and volunteers have done to make the museum an integral part of the Brockville community.

"Every time you walk into this building you see things you didn't see before and its quality done," Henderson said. "It really is a special thing for the people that live in the area."

Natalie Wood, Curator and Director at the Brockville Museum, said Tuesday's celebration was an opportunity to pay due to the history

in Brockville while looking forward at the new exhibits and programs at the museum coming this year.

Wood said this year has especially been huge for bringing in new exhibits with the Railway Exhibit in February, the People of Brockville Exhibit in May, and a new Sports Exhibit, at the beginning of July, and opening in September, a River Exhibit.

"Opening in the beginning of July is our Sports Exhibit, which is in partnership with the archives of Ontario. They have brought some of their exhibit material, and then we have supplemented it with some of our collection here. So that will be up in time for the Olympics. And then in September we have a new River Exhibit opening up, so it is definitely a busy year for exhibits," said Wood.

Wood said she was extremely happy with the turnout for the celebration; it was a great opportunity to showcase what the museum has done, and an opportunity to look forward into the future.

"We were really happy with the turnout today, it was great to see new and old faces just come together to celebrate the museum," said Wood.

Among those new and old faces to the museum were Morgan Bertrend and her four-year-old son Liam. Bertrend said that they have frequented the museum more in the past, but with her homeschooled son



ALI WILSON/THE RECORDER AND TIMES  
Natalie Wood, Director/Curator of the Brockville Museum, cuts the 35th Anniversary cake during a celebration at the Brockville Museum on Tuesday.

entering into kindergarten she sees the museum as a great resource in the community to help with intertwining practical and hands-on learning of Brockville's history.

"They do a program for us during the year so it's great to come in and visit. It's cool to see back in the historic rooms that aren't usually open," said Bertrend. "Basically everything here is just learning and exploring, so it's what we are all about, we like history."

As for Liam, he was really excited to explore the log cabin in the kid's room...and enjoy some anniversary cake.

"And the cake...I really like the cake," said Liam.

Looking past the celebration, Wood said she is excited about the

programs they are offering this year. "Tea and Talk" gives the community the opportunity to come into the museum, enjoy some tea, and discuss Brockville's history.

"It's a nice little jot down memory lane," said Wood.

In addition to "Tea and Talk" is Brockville's Criminal Past walking tour. Back by popular demand, the walking tour brings people on a tour of downtown where people can learn, as Wood describes it, the lesser known crime stories from Brockville's past.

"It explores some of those lesser known, perhaps a little seedy, bits of Brockville's history. So we get to see a lot of the tunnel and City Hall, with a focus on the Court House," said Wood.



# A day to seek out family fun

By [Sabrina Bedford](#), The Recorder and Times Sunday, February 14, 2016 12:45:33 EST PM



Winter made it's frigid return this week - perfect for enjoying a wintry Family Day weekend.

Family Day – held on the third Monday in February every year – was first introduced in 2008 as a statutory holiday in Ontario as a way for families to spend more time together.

Brockville has traditionally held several family events this day, and this year is no different with a variety of winter-themed activities being held in honour of the family-themed holiday.

Despite the predicted extreme cold weather – with lows of -35 to -40 expected – there are plenty of outdoor and indoor options to choose from.

The Brockville Museum will be open on Family Day and two new exhibits will be unveiled – 'Brockville's Rail Story' and 'Seeds in Disguise', a traveling exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.

Viktor Kaczkowski, community engagement officer at the Brockville Museum, said being open on Family Day is particularly important for the local community.

"Not everybody goes away on holiday. It's important that people know there's a place to go that they might not necessarily think about going to," he said, adding that he expects the two exhibits to draw a crowd.

He thinks the railway exhibit will be particularly fascinating to locals since it was such an important part of people's lives in general.

"We're focusing on what role the station itself played in the lives of the people of Brockville," Kaczkowski said.

"It was a place of great joy, and a place of tears as well. We have footage of the royal visit with the train coming through. We have footage of the soldiers leaving to go overseas in World War 2, that sort of thing.

"There's also a little bit about the rail history in town because so many people worked for the railway and people remember their family members working for the railway as well. It's a pretty important story."

He also described the unique traveling exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum about seeds – something that people might not otherwise think twice about. It features ornamental seeds "disguised" as beads in jewelry, trinkets and ornaments.

"It covers anything from corn to coconuts to beans – whatever you can think of. It's really neat," Kaczkowski said.

If you're interested in spending time outdoors, the Mac Johnson Wildlife Area will be hosting a family skate on Monday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include a variety of outdoor activities.

You can skate on the pond or ski on the cross-country ski trails, and the ice slide will be operational as long as it's cold enough. There will also be a ski and snowshoe challenge beginning at 10 a.m.

The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area will also be hosting a barbeque.

The Maitland Snowfest is also planned for Monday, starting at 11 a.m.

"We will have skating, hockey, cross country skiing, guided tours of the ski trails and a bonfire to keep you warm," the festival's website described.

A horse drawn sleigh will complete the scene and be in operation until 2 p.m., while a family movie will play in the hall with face painting.



Would you like to hear the story of one of Canada's largest bank heists, the twisted tale of the last man hanged in Brockville, the frightening account of a mass shooting - and discover exactly what happened to John Simpson's skin? The Brockville Museum presents 'Brockville's Criminal Past Walking Tour' each Friday until Labour Day. The tours are hosted at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m and run rain or shine. Tickets are only \$6 per person. Please register in advance as tours are limited to groups of 20 by emailing [museum@brockville.com](mailto:museum@brockville.com) or by calling 613-342-4397

August 2016

SNAPD.

## RAISING A GLASS FOR THE BROCKVILLE MUSEUM

A great time was had by all on August 16th as the Brockville Museum hosted their annual 'Raise a Glass' fundraiser. The sold-out event featured four local restaurants serving a dish paired with a sampling of a Beau's All Natural Brewing Co. beer and a Blue Gypsy Wines fruit wine. Participating restaurants included the Tall Ships Waterfront Grille, Buds on the Bay, Brockberry Cafe Smokehouse & Suites; and The Georgian Dragon Ale House & Pub.



Event by Andy Wheeler  
Website code: pewwjyt

Moishe, Shauntay & Michael from Tall Ships Waterfront Grille



Bruce Wylie & Paul Naylor



Doug Smith & Doreen Barnes



Dave Beauchesne from Beau's Brewery & Louis Gall from Blue Gypsy Wines



The Museum's Amy Mackie & Stewart Smith from the Brockberry serve a customer



Museum's Viktor Kaczowski presents a door prize

# A 'sweet love' for Canada remembered

By [Sabrina Bedford](#), The Recorder and Times Wednesday, May 4, 2016 5:22:55 EDT PM



Months before the late Brockville mayor Ben TeKamp was born, the town with his family home in Holland was in the midst of the Second World War.

TeKamp's older sister, Dinnie Moore, said during that time the family hid a Jewish man and a fleeing German soldier in the walls of the house to save them from persecution.

While she was a toddler at the time, Moore remembers this period of her life vividly. On Wednesday she shared her family's harrowing tale of hiding in a make-shift bomb shelter made by their father before the country was eventually liberated.

"The vibration of the bombs caused the plaster to fall onto our beds, but we slept right through it apparently," Moore said yesterday at the local Dutch day of remembrance.

Members of the TeKamp family were at the Brockville Museum Wednesday where they observed Dodenherdenking, the Dutch Day of Remembrance, an annual observance in the Netherlands where those killed during World War II and in subsequent conflicts and peace-keeping missions are remembered.

"If they would have found either one of (the people we were hiding), that would have been the end of our family for sure," Moore said.

The TeKamp family came to Canada in 1948, and Ben TeKamp eventually went on to be the mayor of Brockville for many years before his death in 2014.

The day of remembrance coincided with the museum's new permanent exhibit, 'The People of Brockville', which features 18 panels featuring local citizens and historical figures.

In addition to the existing 15 'People of Brockville' panels, three new ones were unveiled. These new panels recognize former mayor TeKamp, historian John Mercier McMullen, and politician Tom Cossitt.

This was the second annual event. The first was held in 2015 when the museum recognized Robert Moulton, a local man who "saved the Dutch community" of Wilnis by steering his fatally-damaged plane away from the town centre and into a nearby bog in May 1943. A piece of his plane was returned from Holland to the Brockville Museum for display in the exhibit.

The Brockville Dutch Choir also performed at the ceremony, which included a two-minute time of silence at 2 p.m., coinciding with the moment of silence occurring in the Netherlands and England.

Museum curator Natalie Wood unveiled the exhibit at the end of the ceremony, saying that Brockville's history goes far beyond the borders of the city.

"We have so many stories, and that's really what our exhibit, The People of Brockville, is all about," said Wood. "It's about sharing stories about individuals with different experiences."

The gratitude for Canadians was clear among those marking the occasion.

"People in the Netherlands remember the sacrifice that was made by the Canadians," Moore said, adding she has a vivid memory of standing on the road after the liberation, waving flags, and seeing a vehicle drive up.

"The Canadian soldiers drove by and threw us our first chocolate bars. There's been a sweet love for Canadians ever since.



## Brockville Museum to host colourful barn display

Celebrating rural roots, "The Barn Raising Project" is a travelling exhibit that will open at the Brockville Museum on Sept. 20.

This colourful display features 40 fibre-art wall hangings depicting barns, an iconic symbol of rural Ontario, according to a museum release. Using traditional rug-hooking techniques 40 artists, primarily from across Ontario, illustrate the beauty of our rural landscapes and share the stories of how barns have had an impact on these artists. The project was originally conceived by three members of the Huronia Branch of the Ontario Hooking Craft Guild who, with the support of the Simcoe County Museum, have made this exhibit available to museums across Ontario.

This exhibit has travelled the length and breadth of Ontario since 2014.

With the assistance of the Thousand Islanders, a branch of the guild, the Brockville Museum is fortunate to host this visually stunning exhibit which will be on display until Oct. 14. Copies of the exhibit guide will

be available for \$10 (cash only).

In addition, the Thousand Islanders will be at the museum on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. as part of Culture Days activities. Local rug hookers will be displaying some of their own works and will be offering hands-on demonstrations.

The Thousand Islanders have celebrated and promoted traditional rug hooking in Brockville for more than 40 years.

The 40-plus members participate in community events throughout the year and hold guild meetings monthly.

The museum on Henry Street west of Hardy Park is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; admission is by donation.

For further information, visit [brockvillemuseum.com](http://brockvillemuseum.com).

## Museum showcases Brockville waterfront

The Brockville Museum opens a new major exhibit today.

"Brockville's River Story" tells the story of how the community's waterfront has served as a dynamic meeting point for wealthy citizens, industry and ordinary people, according to a museum release. Highlights will include a St. Lawrence Skiff, archival video footage of boat races and royal visits, and historical photographs of Brockville's changing waterfront. Diving, boat building, and rowing traditions round out the exhibit, as do snapshots and stories of various notable ships (such as the Bluenose and the Magedoma) that have passed through Brockville.

"This is one of our most ambitious exhibits yet," states Director/Curator Natalie Wood.

"The river defined who we are as a community and there are so many stories relating to the river that the hardest part of putting this exhibit together was choosing which one to uses."

This exhibit was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Brockville Museum and donors Margaret Humphreys, in memory of her late husband Al Humphreys, as well as from Doris Stewart.

The museum located at Henry and Water streets is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; admission is by donation. The facility will also be open during Tall Ships weekend, which is an appropriate time to launch the exhibit. For further information, visit [www.brockvillemuseum.com](http://www.brockvillemuseum.com).

## A WHISKY TASTING AT THE MUSEUM

"A Whisky Tasting" was held at the Brockville Museum on Nov. 17th. Under the guidance of Ray Marshall & Bernie Frith, members of the Fellowship of The Quaich, attendees had a chance to sample four excellent quality whiskies of varied characteristics. A selection of finger foods to complement the whiskies was also provided by four of Brockville's best restaurants, The Georgian Dragon, Kazuko, Nakhon Thai, and the Union Jack. Musical entertainment was provided by The Hoolies which added some Celtic flair. This was a new fundraiser for the local museum.

Event by Andy Wheeler  
Website code: pew2efc



Ray Marshall and Bernie Frith flank the Museum's Community Engagement Officer Viktor Kaczowski

# Space crunch at Brockville Museum

By [Ronald Zajac](#), Recorder and Times Wednesday, June 8, 2016 5:52:42 EDT PM



The Brockville Museum is facing a storage crunch, a problem city leaders will have to solve in the years to come.

That is a key message from the annual report presented to city council's planning committee by the museum's curator/director, Natalie Wood, who called "lack of physical capacity" the museum's biggest concern.

The space crunch could impede the ability of the museum, which marks its 35th anniversary this month, to accept new artifacts, Wood reiterated Wednesday.

"We just really have no room for anything at this point," she said.

"We're just running out of places to store things."

The museum's annual report notes that 2015 saw the reopening of "discussions about the museum's need to enlarge its physical capacity, either by expansion or relocation.

"Board of management members met with city executives to discuss ideas for moving forward with such a proposal, but given the many competing projects currently being undertaken by the city of Brockville, no resolutions were made," it adds.

"The board of management, however, agreed that such discussions must continue."

Wood told planning committee members on Tuesday the museum had to remove an exhibit in its Henry Street addition in order to create more storage space.

The museum also rents off-site storage space outside the city.

"Any museum only really has less than 20 per cent of their collection on display," said Wood.

The local museum is holding to that ratio at the moment, but it is problematic for the future, she added.

"We bring in about 400 new items every year," said Wood.

"It's difficult to say yes to them when we don't know where to put them."

The museum's collection numbers about 6,000 three-dimensional objects as well as about 30,000 pictures and documents, said Wood.

The three-dimensional objects range in size from the teaware items or furniture stored at its Henry Street location to much larger items.

"One of the items we have in our off-site storage location is a fire truck," said Wood.

It's always a concern when museum officials have to choose between exhibit space and storage, councillor Phil Deery, the planning committee chairman, said Tuesday.

Mayor David Henderson, pointing to another item on Tuesday's agenda, wondered if museum officials had talked to the owners of the building at 10 John Street, who want to convert that building into a community resource centre, about using space there.

The museum's space needs are too big for that option, Wood replied.

Long-term options might include expansion or relocation, both expensive propositions, Wood acknowledged.

"There's no evident solution right now," she said.

The museum could look at leasing more storage space, but its current off-site lease agreement already amounts to five per cent of an annual operating budget of about \$250,000, she added.

"Our goal is just to make sure that people are aware of that issue," said Wood.

Expansion or relocation of the museum is not on city hall's current 10-year capital plan, said Brockville corporate services director David Dick.

"I suspect we may be having some discussions about alternatives, maybe as early as the 2017 or 2018 budget," he added.

Despite these headaches over space, the outlook is positive for the museum, Wood told councillors.

It saw an increase in visitors in 2015 of nearly 20 per cent over the average of the previous four years and 2016 will see three new permanent and three temporary exhibits at the facility, she said.

## 2016 Monitor Newsletters





## The Year of Exhibition Renewal Well Underway

Last year we promised an ambitious exhibition schedule for 2016. Indeed, we planned for three new permanent exhibits and three temporary ones all for 2016. Though exhausting, it is also exciting, and we are thrilled to say that we are well on our way!

In February we opened the new "Brockville's Rail Story" exhibit. The permanent exhibit explores the social impact of the railway as a gathering place for Brockville residents.

Between February and early May, we hosted the Royal Ontario Museum's "Seeds in Disguise"

travelling exhibit, thanks to a generous donation by the Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council, Friends of the Brockville Museum and a grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

On May 4th, we opened "The People of Brockville", which celebrates the achievements and contributions made by Brockville citizenry from the time of its founding to the present day. Through objects and biographies, "The People of Brockville" exhibition weaves the theme of larger Brockville stories; The Brockville Rifles, the Rowing Club and BCI all make their way into the narrative, as do stories of immigration, entrepreneurship and sacrifice.

And we're not done yet... "Brockville's River Story" is scheduled to open in time for the Tall Ships Festival in September and this summer, the museum is host to the Archive of Ontario's travelling exhibit, "Ontario's Sporting Past" which will be supplemented by objects and stories from the Brockville Museum to highlight our own sporting history, especially our ties to the Olympics. Then, in mid-September, the Thousand Islanders Rug Hooking Guild presents "The Barn Raising Project".

It is ambitious, but we hope that it will give people a reason to visit, and visit again!

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*Submitted by N.W.*



Dutch Choir organizer, Tineke Endhoven addresses the group during the May 4th ceremony as the choir prepares for their next song.

## Dodenherdenking

On May 4th, the Brockville Museum observed Dodenherdenking, the Dutch Day of Remembrance, an annual observance in the Netherlands when those who were killed during World War II and in subsequent conflicts and peace-keeping missions are remembered.

This event was first held in 2015 when the museum recognized Brockvillian Robert Moulton, whom on May 4 1943 saved the Dutch community of Wilnis by steering his fatally-damaged plane away from the town centre and into a nearby bog. This year, thanks to friends in the Netherlands and England, the museum was gifted a part of that plane, which is now part of the "People of Brockville" exhibit.

The Brockville Dutch Choir performed again at this year's ceremony, while members of the audience could be seen singing along. The ceremony also included personal and family stories from those who witnessed the Dutch Liberation, including Dinnie Moore, sister of the late Ben TeKamp.

A two-minute moment of silence was held at 2 p.m. to coincide with the moment of silence occurring in the Netherlands.

The local Dutch community continues to play an integral part in the evolution of our community.

Like many other individuals and groups they have an interesting story to tell.

Fittingly, at the conclusion of the Day of Remembrance ceremony, the new "People of Brockville" exhibit was formally opened. In addition to the existing 15 "People of Brockville" panels, three new ones were unveiled: former Mayor Ben TeKamp (sponsored by John Taylor), historian John Mercier McMullen (sponsored by Robin Hanna McMullen), and politician Tom Cossitt.

*Submitted by V.K.*



Attendees to the May 4 ceremony check out the new "People of Brockville" exhibit.

## Open Drawer Update

More items and images are being added to the on-line database daily! All 84 objects on display in the "People of Brockville" exhibit can now be viewed online, complete with photograph. If you haven't had a chance to check it out, please visit our website and follow the link under "Collection" to "Search the Database" and enjoy! We still have a long way to go, but we've made excellent progress thanks to our volunteers!



## From the Photographic Archive: Imperial Oil Tanks

In this issue's "From the Photographic Archives", we take a look at the not-too-distant past with a great shot of the Imperial Oil tanks once adjacent to today's Mill Restaurant.

We thought that this photo was especially timely, given the recent installation of the new bridge across the creek, which provides a great "before" and "after".

And, just for fun, we thought we'd supplement this edition with a great aerial photo from Murray Studios showing the tanks. Enjoy!



*Above: archival image; Below: present-day photo by V.K.*



## Thank you for the Seeds!

February 15th–May 19th, the Brockville Museum hosted the Royal Ontario Museum's travelling exhibit, "Seeds in Disguise: the biology and lore of ornamental seeds". Renting this type of exhibit is quite expensive, especially shipping costs. We'd like to thank the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council and the Friends of the Brockville Museum for making it possible to bring this exhibit to Brockville.



Members of the Leeds-Grenville Stewardship Council tour the Seeds exhibit at their April meeting.



Canada 

# 150th Anniversary of the Fenian Invasions of Canada

*Submitted by: Brian Porter*

In the early morning hours of June 1, 1866, some nine hundred Irish Fenians crossed the Niagara River from Buffalo New York to Fort Erie and moved inland. Premier John A. Macdonald, of Canada West and Governor General Lord Monck called up militia units across the province. The Queen's Own Rifles from Toronto and other units from the St. Catharines area rushed to repel the invasion.

The two forces met at the Battle of Ridgeway, north of Fort Erie, on June 2. The two-hour battle left nine young Canadians dead and thirty-seven wounded, before the Fenians withdrew back across the Niagara River.

Five days later another Fenian force crossed into the Eastern Townships of Quebec from Vermont and were pushed back by the militia from Montreal.

The Fenians (Irish Republican Brotherhood) were battle-hardened veterans of the U.S Civil War, which had ended in April 1865. They had raised millions of dollars to help free Ireland from British rule by trying to take British North America hostage.

The Eastern Ontario militia rallied at Fort Wellington in Prescott. The one hundred men of the Brockville Rifles (41st Battalion), under the command of Lt. Col. James Crawford, were sent to secure the border crossing at Cornwall and the fifty-five men of Captain Jacob Buell's Brockville Infantry Company (42nd Battalion) guarded the three banks, the town market hall and waterfront.

Rumours and fear were rampant along the St. Lawrence River. Arms were being stockpiled in towns on the New York side. President Johnson finally upheld the Neutrality Treaty and had the Fenians dispersed and weapons confiscated.



These Fenian invasions were a real and serious threat to the emerging new nation of Canada, which came into existence on July 1, 1867. But they also provided an incentive to complete the negotiations for the Confederation of all the colonies of British North America for mutual protection.

Weaknesses were exposed in the colonial militia forces and their leadership, which led to reorganization and improvements.

In May 1870, the Fenians again invaded from Vermont into Quebec and were repelled by the better-organized and better-armed militia of the Dominion of Canada.

A monument in Queen's Park in Toronto commemorates these citizen soldiers and the names of the dead are inscribed on a bronze plaque in the Ontario Legislature.



## *Keep it Under Your Stetson!*

**We're holding a signature fundraising dinning experience that you won't want to miss!**

Step back in time to the 1940s for "Keep it Under Your Stetson".

On June 18, 2016, with the participation of The Wedgewood Retirement Resort and singer/entertainer A. J. Benoit, you will be treated to a unique meal and the great music of the time.

The evening will begin at 7 p.m. in The Wedgewood's lovely lounge and patio area (please note that it is a cash bar). Your host for the event is the Museum's Amy Mackie who will share some of her passion for this period in Canadian history. Dinner is at 7:45 p.m. in the beautiful dining room followed by live entertainment by A. J. Benoit and Trisha Reilly accompanied by pianist Mary Ross-Comstock.



1946 photo of the dinner at the Manitonna.

This fundraising dinner and evening of entertainment was inspired by a "dinner of tribute" held on June 18, 1946, exactly 70 years earlier. Arranged by the John B. Stetson Hat Company to honour its employees that had fought in World War II, it was held in the Wedgewood Room of the Hotel Manitonna. It was an evening filled with pageantry, good food, and light entertainment at time when a new sense of optimism was permeating our land.

Based on the actual menu from the original dinner, the Wedgewood's chef will offer four courses which will include intriguing delights such as Chicken á la Normandy, North Atlantic Soup, Scheldt Green Beans, and the mysterious "Bombs Away". Since The Wedgewood is built where the Manitonna was located at 15 King St. E., you will be able dine on the actual site where the original dinner was held.

Please join us for a unique and entertaining evening! Tickets are only \$85 per person (a tax receipt of \$25 per ticket will be issued to ticket purchasers). Seating is limited – tickets must be purchased in advance by calling or visiting the Brockville Museum at 5 Henry St. Tickets are transferrable but not refundable. For further information call (613) 342 4397 or visit [brockvillemuseum.com](http://brockvillemuseum.com).

*Submitted by V.K.*

### **Back for 2016:**

## **BROCKVILLE'S CRIMINAL PAST HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR**

**Fridays in July & August**  
Tours Depart @ 3pm & 7pm  
Brockville Museum

**Tickets \$6/person**

*\*not recommended for  
children under 10*

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

The Friends of the Brockville Museum held their Annual General Meeting on Saturday, February 13th. Unfortunately, extremely cold temperatures seemed to keep most of the membership from attending. As a result, quorum was not obtained and no formal meeting was able to take place.

### We need your vote!

Attached to this issue of the Monitor is the annual financial report and the slate of executive members up for re-appointment and other motions that would have been put forward at the AGM. We ask that you please complete the "return" portion of the attachment with your vote and signature and send it to the museum.

### Please do so by June 3rd, 2016.

Thank you for your cooperation. The Friends AGM takes place on the second Saturday of February every year.

## About our Public Programming

*Submitted by: Amy Mackie*

As you know, 2016 is off to a busy start for everyone. This year we hosted one of our most successful Adult Lecture Series to date. Almost 350 people attended our 6 lectures. Thank you to all our volunteers that prepared delicious cookies for our lecture attendees and to everyone that came out to the lectures.

Talk & Tea continues to be popular with members and visitors. Our name change (formerly 'Tea With Amy') allows us to welcome guest speakers, like Ted Rafuse who spoke on May 12th about the history of railway ferries.

Looking forward to the summer, I am most excited about our Brock Trail Spirit Walk. The chance to present some of our historical events and 'meet' people from the past through dramatic vignettes will put a new twist on our amazing history. I'd love to add some music to this event as well. So, if you want to try your hand at acting, if you sing or play an instrument, we'd love to have you!

## Do you have the *spirit* of an actor?

We're looking for volunteers to play a role in our upcoming Brock Trail Spirit Walk taking place on August 13th and September 17th.

Guests will be led along the Brock Trail for a dramatic journey through history to discover the spirits of some of Brockville's historical personalities; actors will share the stories of some of Brockville's greatest accomplishments and events.

If you're interested in possibly being cast as one of our actors, please let Amy know: [amackie@brockville.com](mailto:amackie@brockville.com). We'll be casting in June!

Think it sounds interesting, but don't want to act? Join us for one of the walks! Details coming soon.

## Co-op student at work



The Brockville Museum was thrilled to welcome another high school co-op student this spring. Katrina, from St. Mary, has been busy working on the Open Drawer Project (and seen here, sorting printing press letter plates). In the last two years we've hosted seven co-op students.





## Exhibiting at the Aquatarium

The long-awaited Aquatarium is now open. In their first few months of opening, they have welcomed 20,000 visitors. The Brockville Museum is happy to welcome this new tourism partner.

We were fortunate to be invited to set up a small display in one of their cases in the Biosphere Hall. We seized the opportunity to showcase some of our stories and promote the museum. We hope that this case will help drive at least some Aquatarium visitors across Hardy Park and through our doors.

(Pictured left is museum Registrar, Alison Dingle setting up the display.)

## Admission by Donation

The Brockville Museum is excited to announce that we have moved to an "admission by donation" model in lieu of set admission rates.

Since introducing the new model in January, we have seen an increase in both visitation and admission revenue. While it is true that some people choose not to leave a donation, we are finding that many people opt to leave \$5/person, which is \$0.50 more than our previous adult admission rate. Without sacrificing revenue, this model has also allowed us to improve access for lower-income visitors and young families.

## New Website Launched!

In December the Brockville Museum launched a completely updated and redesigned website! The redesign better meets current accessibility standards and works on multiple platforms (smartphones, tablets and desktops). We still have a few things to add, but we're really excited with the new look and the content. Please check it out. And don't forget, you can search the museum's collection online from this site, just follow the link under "Collection".

## Book Sale a Success!



Volunteers getting ready for the Friends' book sale.

The record-breaking sale took place April 18-29, and thanks to an amazing selection of donated books, it raised \$2,083. Thank you to all the volunteers for their painstaking effort sorting the books. Well done!

The Friends are pleased to announce that we are offering a **bus tour to Exporail the Canadian Railway Museum** on October 5th. Details coming soon.

## Looking for Exhibit Sponsors

As you know, we are midway through a very ambitious exhibit plan for 2016 and 2017, and we need your help to make it to the end! We're looking for sponsors to contribute to each of the following exhibits to help pay for professional signs and panels and related material costs. Each sponsor will be recognized on a plaque in the respective exhibit room.

**Brockville's River Story:** (Permanent Exhibit) this exhibit will look at the St. Lawrence River and Brockville's waterfront as the dynamic meeting point between industry, wealth and ordinary people. It will focus on recreational pastimes as well as commercial enterprises. **Total Cost \$3,000.**

**Ontario's Sporting Past:** (Temporary Exhibit: July-September 2016) this is a travelling exhibit from the Archives of Ontario, but we will be adding Brockville-specific stories to this display, including our Olympic connections and rowing traditions. **Total Cost \$500.**

**How Brockville Celebrated the Centennial:** (Temporary Exhibit: January-December 2017) a look at Brockville in 1967 and how the Centennial was celebrated with community-building projects and events. **Total Cost: \$2,500.**

We need your financial help to make this happen! We invite you to choose your exhibit and the sponsorship category with which you are most comfortable. Donations can be made directly to the Brockville Museum and do qualify for an income tax receipt for the full amount.

### Sponsorship Categories:

Contributor: \$100  
Donor: \$250  
Supporter: \$500  
Benefactor: \$1,000

As always, thank you for your ongoing support!

Follow us to go behind the scenes & stay up to date:



## Summer Calendar of Events

**Thursday, June 9th:**

Talk & Tea @ 2pm  
*Spring Wildflowers*

**Saturday, June 18th:**

Keep it Under your Stetson Fundraising Dinner

**Every Friday in July & August starting July 1st**  
Brockville's Criminal Past Historical Walking Tour  
@ 3pm & 7pm

**Thursday, July 14th:**

Talk & Tea @ 2pm  
*Butterflies*

**Thursday, August 11th:**

Talk & Tea @ 2pm  
*Fishing*

**Saturday, August 13th:**

Brock Trail Spirit Walk

**Tuesday, August 16th:**

Raising a Pint for the Brockville Museum

**Friday, September 2nd:**

Last presentation of "Brockville's Criminal Past"

**Thursday, September 8th:**

Talk & Tea @ 2pm  
*Preserving the Harvest*

**Saturday, September 17th:**

Brock Trail Spirit Walk

**Saturday, September 24th:**

Kitsch & Collectibles Silent Auction

**Saturday, October 1st:**

Culture Days

**Wednesday, October 5th:**

Bus Tour to Exporail (Canadian Railway Museum)  
*details coming soon*

For more information on any of these events please check out our website at [www.brockvillemuseum.com](http://www.brockvillemuseum.com) or call us at 613-342-4397



# The Monitor

*The Brockville Museum Newsletter*

Volume 32, Issue 2: Fall 2016

## How is it Fall Already?

Oh my goodness, where has the summer gone? There has been so much going on that we entirely lost track of time, but in our defence, the September calendar is looking more like an extra month of summer (both in terms of weather, museum hours, and events)!

So what has happened this summer? In June we marked the 35th anniversary of the Brockville Museum. In July, we hosted the “re-imagining” of the 1946 Stetson Company Dinner of Tribute. And August was marked with one of our most successful Beer (and Wine!) Tasting Events.

In the midst of all these events, we opened the “Our Sporting Past” temporary exhibit (closing September 17th) and worked to prepare the “Brockville’s River Story” exhibit (opening September 15th). We also ran our “Brockville’s Criminal Past” Walking Tours for the second summer, to much the same success as last year.

After all this, we are totally ready for a breather, but the calendar just isn’t going to let us. In September we’ve got the Annual Silent Auction (September 24th) and the opening of the River Exhibit on September 15th, which will coincide with Brockville’s Tall Ships Festival. On October 1st we’re proud to be a part of the nation-wide celebration, “Culture Days”, and are pleased to host the local rug hooking guild as well as the Irish Cultural Society at the museum. Then, on October 5th, we’ve got a bus tour heading up to Exporail in Montreal.

We’ve included more information on these events and exhibits in this issue of the Monitor, but to really stay up to date on all the museum happenings, we encourage you to visit our website and check us out on Facebook, and Twitter.

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*Submitted by N.W.*



## Sorry if you missed it!

These events happened already, but we wanted to share some highlights of this summer's events with you. Thank you for your ongoing support with these and other initiatives.

**On May 28th and 29th**, the Brockville Museum participated in the annual Doors Open Brockville and the 1000 Islands. Over the two days we offered visitors a behind the scenes tour of our collection storage facilities.



*At the Wedgewood Retirement Resort for the "Stetson Dinner"*

**On June 18th**, we gathered at the Wedgewood Retirement Resort to "re-imagine" the 1946 Stetson Dinner of Tribute, originally held in the Wedgewood Room of the Manitonna Hotel (where the Wedgewood now sits) exactly 70 years earlier. The Wedgewood chefs served up a delicious five course meal inspired by the original menu and guests were entertained with 1940s-era music performed live by AJ Benoit and Trisha Reilly. It was a fun and fabulous night complete with fedoras and fond memories. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the museum.

**On June 21st**, the museum celebrated its 35th anniversary with a cake cutting ceremony and open house. Over 40 people popped in to see the new exhibits and sneak a peak behind the scenes. To see the video from the event, check out HomeTown TV 12 online.

**Every Friday night in July and August** we led "Brockville's Criminal Past Walking Tour". We launched the tours in 2015 and they proved so successful that we brought them back again this summer. Tours departed from the museum at 3pm

and 7pm for a historical tour through Brockville's downtown. We once again received positive feedback for this unique tour.



*Tour guide, Emily, welcomes a crowd for the walking tour.*

**On August 16th**, a sold-out crowd gathered for the Friend's Annual "Raising a Glass" beer, wine and food tasting fundraiser. Beau's All-Natural Brewing Company and Blue Gypsy Winery provided the beer and wine, while four local restaurants served up some amazing creations: Tall Ships Waterfront Grill, Georgian Dragon, Brockberry Grill & Smokehouse, and Bud's on the Bay. Members of the local media were also on hand to help serve: Bruce Wylie, Doreen Barnes, and Dale Elliott.



*Sold-Out crowd for the Raising a Glass event gather in the Carriage Hall.*



*Patrons enjoy the drinks and food at the Raising a Glass Event.*



## From the Photographic Archive: The Bluenose Visit

In this issue's "From the Photographic Archives", we thought we'd get into the spirit of the Tall Ships Festival and the opening of our new "Brockville's River Story" exhibit by reminiscing about the visit of another tall ship, *The Bluenose* in 1933.

The schooner *Bluenose*, "champion of the North Atlantic fishing fleet" visited Brockville on Sunday May 21, 1933 on her way to the Chicago World's Fair. She was one of a long flotilla of vessels making their way to the fair. Due to have been in Brockville all day, her visit was cut short due to delays transiting the St. Lawrence canals. Towed into port by the Canadian Coast Guard vessel *Grenville*, the ship was visited by hundreds of area residents, some coming from as far away as Ottawa.

This Canadian icon, featured on the dime since 1937, had been built at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia in 1921 but had a short life, being wrecked off the coast of Haiti in 1946.



*Crowds visit The Bluenose docked at the CPR Warf, May 1933.*

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## Thank You to Young Canada Works

We would like to acknowledge the funding that we receive from the Government of Canada through the Canadian Museum Association's Young Canada Works grant program almost every summer to hire a summer student. This year, we were able to welcome back Ellen as a Collections Assistant to work on the Open Drawer Project.

Through the "YCW" program we are able to provide meaningful work experiences to local students interested in gaining hands-on skills in a museum environment. Incidentally, both Museum Registrar, Alison, and Curator/Director, Natalie, were once summer students employed by financing from a "YCW" grant.

Ellen returns to school this fall where she is pursuing a Masters degree in Information Studies.



*Ellen (right) assists Alison to put a c.1865 militia infantry tunic on a mannequin in order to photograph it for the online database.*

# The Mysterious Life of John Berry

*Submitted by: Dr. John C. Carter*

Between December, 1837 and December, 1838, there were at least 14 recorded armed incursions from United States into Upper Canada. These unsanctioned attacks constituted what is referred to as the Patriot War, or the 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion. More than 1,000 men were arrested for treason and piratical invasion. One of those captured at the Battle of the Windmill, was John Berry.

Berry was a widowed farmer who owned 200 acres on the 6th Concession of Elizabethtown, Upper Canada. Locally he was known as an "ardent Patriot," and because of his political stance he was incarcerated in the Brockville Gaol at the outbreak of the 1837 rebellion. On his release in December 1837, he fled from Upper Canada and became a refugee in Columbia County, New York. There he became active in the Hunters' Lodge movement, prior to his capture at the Battle of the Windmill in November, 1838.

Berry was sent to Van Diemen's Land (now Australian State of Tasmania) as a political prisoner, along with 91 other Patriot colleagues. This group was collectively put to work building roads. Berry laboured at Sandy Bay, Lovely Banks, Green Ponds, Bridgewater and Salt Water Creek Probation Stations, until being issued his ticket of leave (a form of probation) on February 10, 1842. Soon after, Berry was hired out as a shepherd and was sent to a remote area of the island. He sought permission to marry Elizabeth Donahoo on February 7, 1854, but the marriage, if it ever took place, was never registered. His Absolute Pardon was issued on June 27, 1845, but he remained ignorant of his freedom for 13 more years, until 1857. On being informed of his pardon and as a result "discharged from further servitude," Berry immediately arranged for his return home. Shipping records show that a John Berry left Van Diemen's Land from Launceston, in November, 1857. Eventually he worked his

passage back to United States on a South Seas whaler. This vessel finally reached New York City early in June, 1860, where Berry disembarked.

From there he journeyed to Cape Vincent, New York, crossed over the St. Lawrence River to Kingston, and then took a boat to Brockville. He returned home after a long absence of 22 years! Many of the people John Berry had previously known had died, children had grown to become adults, and Berry met strange faces at every turn. He eventually moved to Oswego, New York where he lived out the rest of his life. He died at the Burlington City Poor Farm in July of 1873, at the age of 82. Berry was one of the few Canadian prisoners to participate in the Patriot War and be captured, the last to leave Van Diemen's Land, and one of the last to die in obscurity. A man of mystery to the end!

## Bibliography & Suggested Reading:

Donald Graves, *Guns Across the River* (Toronto: Robin Brass Studio, 2001).

Edwin C. Guillet, *The Lives and Times of the Patriots* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1968).

n.a. "A Chapter of Canadian History," Stratford [Ontario] Beacon (June 29, 1860).

n.a. "Death of an Aged Warrior," Plattsburg [New York] Sentinel (July 18, 1873).

n.a. "Death of the Van Diemen's Land Pauper," [Ogdensburg] Daily Journal (July 22, 1873).

Cassandra Pybus & Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, *American Citizens, British Slaves* (East Lansing, Mich.: Michigan State University Press, 2002).

**Dr. John C. Carter is a Research Associate, History and Classics Programme, School of Humanities, University of Tasmania. He introduced the story of John Berry, at his April 13, 2016 lecture at the Brockville Museum. Please contact him at [drjohncarter@bell.net](mailto:drjohncarter@bell.net), if you are related to or have any further information about John Berry.**



## Media Helps Raise our Profile

One of our strategic goals that we are currently working on is about increasing the profile and visibility of the museum in the community. We got a huge boost with this this summer thanks to the local media.

We were in the **Recorder & Times** almost every week in June, with stories of the Museum's 35th anniversary and our need to for more space.

**CKWS television** decided to profile the museum in July with a two-part special on the walking tours and the sports exhibit.



Amy chats with CKWS's Bill Hall as they get ready for filming outside the museum.

We also started a new project in partnership with Dale Elliott at **HomeTown TV12**, a local online news platform. This project has seen the production of "BMuse" a weekly video segment about the museum. BMuse includes a look at upcoming events, as well as behind the scenes tours, collections 101, and tours of our exhibits. Our Interpretation and Public Programming Coordinator, Amy Mackie serves as our online personality and helps bring the museum to life for the online audience. BMuse is posted weekly to Facebook and is also available on the **HomeTown TV12 website**: [www.hometowntv12.ca](http://www.hometowntv12.ca)

We continue to enjoy tremendous support by **Snap'd 1000 Islands**– watch for our monthly photos and articles. **Cogeco's FYI** program with Doreen Barnes is very supportive and helps us spread the word about upcoming events. And on the third Monday of every month we have a radio spot on **JRfm** with Bruce Wylie.



Amy filming a segment for HomeTown TV12 on the sports exhibit.

A huge thank you goes out to all the local media who continue to support the museum!

### We're on Social Media Too!

Local media also support us by sharing and retweeting things we post to our Facebook and Twitter pages. We use these platforms to promote upcoming events, but also to share historic photos and objects from our collection. If you like seeing old photos of Brockville, we encourage you to check us out on Facebook! It is also a great way to keep up to date on what's happening at the museum. We also offer give-a-ways every now and then to our followers. And don't forget we have an all-new website! You can even search our collection from there. Happy clicking.

## Busy Year for Exhibits

We went into 2016 with an ambitious exhibit schedule, but it has been really rewarding to see the transformations. Here's a recap of the exhibits that have already opened, and a preview of what is yet to come.



"Brockville's Rail Story" opened in February.



"Our Sporting Past" July-September 2016.



"Seeds in Disguise" from the ROM, was on display February-May 2016.



"People of Brockville" opened in May.

### Still to come...

**"Brockville's River Story"** opens September 15th.

**"The Barn Raising Project"**, a travelling exhibit from the Simcoe County Museum, and brought to the Brockville Museum by the Thousand Islanders Rug Hooking Guild, will be open September 20th-October 14th.

**"How Brockville Celebrated the Centennial"**, opens January 3rd and will be on display for the duration of 2017.

In 2017 we also have plans to connect the River and Rail exhibits with a display about the Tunnel and Blockhouse Island, as well as update the Smarts Manufacturing display.

We are still looking for sponsors to help cover the costs of preparing our upcoming exhibits. Each sponsor will be recognized on a plaque in the respective exhibit room. Donations can be made directly to the Brockville Museum and do qualify for an income tax receipt for the full amount. A special thank you to those who have already sponsored an exhibit. Thank you for your on-going support.



## Coming This Fall

### September 15th-18th – Tall Ships Brockville

The Tall Ships are coming back to Brockville and the museum is excited to be part of the celebration. Our latest permanent exhibit, “Brockville’s River Story” will be opening as part of the festivities. The exhibit features stories of some of the tall ships (and other vessels) that have passed through Brockville, an exploration of our rowing successes, information on our boat-building past, and a look at the many ways we have celebrated our deeply rooted connection to the river, among many other narratives. So if you’re visiting the waterfront to check out the Tall Ships, please pop in and check out what’s new!

### September 24th – Annual Silent Auction

The Friends’ Annual Kitsch and Collectibles Silent Auction is one of our largest fundraisers of the year. This year the event has been reduced to one-day only and will take place Saturday, September 24th between 9am and 2pm.

All items up for bidding at the event are generously donated to us for this purpose. If you have any pieces that fit the “kitsch” and/or “collectible” theme that you are willing to part with, you are welcome to drop off your donation at the museum between August 29 and September 16th.



*Bidders check out the action at last year’s Silent Auction– you never know what treasures you will find!*

### October 1st – Culture Days

The Brockville Museum is excited to be part of this national celebration of arts and culture. We will be hosting the Thousand Islanders Rug Hooking Guild as well as the local Irish Cultural Society on Saturday, October 1, between 10am and 4pm. This is a great opportunity to check out the special exhibit “The Barn Raising Project” featuring some beautiful hooked rugs. For a complete list of Brockville Culture Days activities, and for details on what’s happening at the museum that day, please visit: [culturedays.ca](http://culturedays.ca) and search for Brockville activities.



*Promotional photo from ExpoRail*

### October 5th – Bus Tour to ExpoRail

The Friends of the Brockville Museum are leading a day-long bus tour to visit Expo Rail– The Canadian Railway Museum, in Montreal. Tour includes round-trip coach transportation, lunch, admission, guided tour and free time to explore the grounds (and all the trains!) Tickets are \$75 for museum members or \$80 for non-members. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available by contacting the Brockville Museum.

*Submitted by N.W.*

## Programming Notes

### *Brockville's Criminal Past Walking Tour*

It was another busy summer for our "Brockville's Criminal Past Walking Tour". The tours ran Fridays in July and August at 3pm and 7pm. At just \$6/person, it was not surprising that several tours sold out. We hope to bring the tours back again in 2017 with a few new stories to share.

### *Brock Trail Spirit Walk*

We had hoped to introduce a new "dramatic" walking tour to our lineup this summer, unfortunately we ran into some unforeseen circumstances and were not able to run the "Spirit Walk" this year. But we are super excited to move forward with this initiative for the 2017 season! So... we're looking for a few enthusiastic individuals who don't mind a little improv in front of large groups of people to help us out with the show next summer. If you're interested in volunteering (or at least learning more), contact Amy ([amackie@brockville.com](mailto:amackie@brockville.com)) and she'll give you the full run-down.

### *Talk & Tea*

Have you come out for a Talk & Tea yet? Talk & Tea is a casual lecture about various historical themes where you're encouraged to share your own stories and memories over some tea (or just listen to others). Talks usually last about 45 minutes and take place on the second Thursday of each month (except February and March due to the lecture series). Talk & Tea is free for members, or just \$2 for non-members. Is there a topic you would like to see covered? Let Amy know! [amackie@brockville.com](mailto:amackie@brockville.com)

Follow us to go behind the scenes & stay up to date:



## Fall Calendar of Events

### Thursday, September 8th:

Talk & Tea @ 2pm  
*Preserving the Harvest*

### September 15th-18th:

Tall Ships Brockville

### September 20th-October 14th:

Travelling Exhibit  
*The Barn Raising Project*

### Saturday, September 24th:

Kitsch & Collectibles Silent Auction

### Saturday, October 1st:

Culture Days

### Wednesday, October 5th:

Bus Tour to Exporail (Canadian Railway Museum)

### Thursday, October 13th:

Talk & Tea @ 2pm  
*Mother Barnes*

### Thursday, November 10th:

Talk & Tea @ 2pm  
*Local War Memorials*

### Thursday, December 8th:

Talk & Tea @ 2pm  
*Carols*

### Looking Ahead to 2017:

### January 3rd-December 20th 2017:

Special Exhibition  
*How Brockville Celebrated the Centennial*

### Thursday, January 12th:

Talk & Tea @ 2pm  
*Robbie Burns with Brian Porter*

### Tuesdays in February & March 7th:

Annual Lecture Series

For more information on any of these events please check out our website at [www.brockvillemuseum.com](http://www.brockvillemuseum.com) or call us at 613-342-4397