



What a Great Summer it was, and a Busy One Awaits Us!

In our June newsletter I explained that one of the goals we are most focused on is increasing visitation to the museum. Well, I am thrilled to announce that we are well on our way! This year, we saw our summer season general visitation increase by 40% over attendance figures for the past three summers. That's amazing.

Sure, the stronger US dollar is no doubt a contributing factor, but based on feedback in our visitor surveys and guest book, we feel confident that a greater factor is our increased visibility: like the new rack cards and new banners (both

purchased by the Friends of the Brockville Museum). I would also be remiss not to mention the attractive gardens that greet visitors, thanks to the tremendous work by our garden volunteers and financial support from the Friends. Our new and highly successful walking tours also contributed to an increase in the museum's visibility and popularity.

We hope to continue this upswing in visitation with a full schedule of new and temporary exhibits planned for 2016, kicking off with a travelling exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum that will be here between February and May, 2016. "Seeds in Disguise: the Biology and Lore of Ornamental Seeds" is a travelling exhibit being brought to Brockville thanks to a grant from the Government of Canada, and sponsored by the Leeds and Grenville Stewardship Council and the Friends of the Brockville Museum. Additionally, several permanent museum exhibits will get a facelift and we will host two other travelling exhibits: "Ontario's Sporting Past" from the Archives of Ontario and the "Barn Raising Project" from the Simcoe County Museum and brought here in partnership with the local Rug Hooker Guild. Rest assured, 2016 will be a busy year! Thank you for your continued support.

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Submitted by N.W.

Summer Programming Recap

The summer just flew by – and it wasn't just because of the nice weather! Our summer student Emily did a great job balancing our new walking tours and planning the kids' summer camps. She was so enthusiastic, she even came back to add a dramatic flair to our Pink Pills event! Thank you to the Government of Canada for funding Emily's position as part of their Young Canada Works program.

Emily put together 4 summer programs this year. She got everyone up and moving, while they were learning this summer. Participants at The Circus Comes to Town learned about the circus and put on their own performance on the last day. For Hometown Heroes, we had the police, fire and EMS come to the museum – with all their cool trucks! During Curator for a Day, a special temporary exhibit was created in the Kids' Room. Finally, the performers were once again centre stage, like the Brockettes before them, during Soldiers of the Stage. Unfortunately, the groups were smaller this year...more on that later.

The Brockville's Criminal Past walking tours were a great success this year. In fact, we had such an amazing response on the second week, we had to run a second 4pm tour! Thank you to all our volunteers and members that came out, and brought their friends and out-of-town visitors with them. We will definitely be offering them again next year – with some changes and new/additional stories.

Given that participation at all children's summer programs at our local museums are waning, we have decided that for 2016 we will try something new. We will still have a summer student, but their focus will be more on

outreach activities. This includes the walking tour, our birthday parties, manning a museum table at community events and a special new dramatic program. I don't want to give too much away, but it will be great fun for all!

Hopefully, these changes will play to the strengths of our students and will make the museum more visible. We look forward to new and exciting challenges...and as the weather gets cooler, we look forward to summer again!

Submitted by A.M.



Photos from "Hometown Heroes" & "Curator for a Day"



A view of the re-organized archival storage room where paper documents, photos and books are stored.

What is the Open Drawer Project

We have spent a lot of time talking about the Open Drawer Project and providing our members with updates on the status of the project. But if you're interested in learning more about the Open Drawer Project and what it all *really* means, here's your opportunity. Museum staff will be presenting at the November 9th meeting of the Leeds and Grenville Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Meeting kicks off at 7:30 in the museum's Carriage Hall. The talk will include a look at what is in our collection, the process of putting our stuff online, and how you can search the database from the comfort of home!

Submitted by N.W.

Fundraising with Fudge (Order Form Attached)

We've got an delicious fundraiser planned for the upcoming holiday season... but we need your sweet tooth!

Fundraising with Fudge is a simple fundraiser that we thought we'd try this fall. It's offered by Brockville's O'Malley Kourt Fudgery and all we have to do is buy fudge.

If you haven't stopped by their shop on King St. we certainly urge you to try their delectable treats, but it's the fudge that will make your mouth water.

So, if you need a hostess gift for a holiday party, a stocking stuffer, or just something to have on hand for unexpected guests, we encourage you to buy some fudge, likewise, we encourage you to take orders on behalf of friends and family.

An order form is enclosed. The order deadline is November 30th and all fudge will be delivered to the museum for pick-up on December 7th, wrapped and ready to go.

Note that the fudge is good for six weeks when stored at room temperature, so no need to devour it in one sitting (unless you want to).

Submitted by N.W.

2015-2016 Co-Op Students



This fall the museum was delighted to receive two new co-op students, Jhames from St. Mary Secondary School in Brockville and Lea from South Grenville District High School in Prescott. Both Jhames and Lea are working on the Open Drawer Project, taking photos of objects, scanning documents and doing an inventory of what's in archival storage boxes.

From the Photographic Archive: The Manitonna Hotel

The sod turning ceremony for Brockville's Wedgewood Retirement Resort took place in July 2006; just a year and a half later, the building opened its doors. But before the Wedgewood, the site was home to the Manitonna Hotel.

In the 1920s it became clear to Brockville residents that the town was in need of a modern hotel with which to attract tourist to its downtown and riverfront. Following on the success of towns like Kamloops and Cornwall, Brockville started a campaign to raise the funds required to buy the land and build a hotel. More than 250 local people bought shares (at \$100 a piece) to give Brockville a first class hotel, at a time when Brockville's population was only 9,500.

The new hotel would have about 75 rooms, a dining room overlooking the river, a restaurant and parlors. It would cost \$325,000 (money raised by members of the community).

Sadly, two young men lost their lives during the hotel's construction.



Manitonna Hotel c. 1930

Before opening on May 27th, 1929, a competition to name the new hotel was held, with Honor F. Gowan submitting the winning name: "Manitonna", meaning, "garden of the Great Spirit".

The premier room in the Manitonna was the Wedgewood Room. It was an attractive room overlooking the St. Lawrence River, and could hold up to 200 people. The Wedgewood Room also had a connecting solarium and lounge. This was *the* place to hold events in Brockville. People dressed up to go there and it was said that nowhere else had a dance floor that compared to the Manitonna's.

In February 1931 alone, at least ten local groups held events in the Manitonna's Wedgewood Room, including the Brockville Railmen's Social Club, the Registered Nurses association, the Jaycees and the Brockville Ladies Curling Club.



BGH Alumnae Dinner in the Wedgewood Room 1955

Rooms in the Manitonna rented for \$2.50-\$5.00/day and included golf privileges at the Brockville Golf & Country Club.

In July 1931, Brockville residents were entertained when Jerry Hudson, "The Human Fly" climbed from the sidewalk to the roof of the Manitonna. The crowd extended for blocks east and west of the hotel and included many on roofs.

Interior renovations were carried out on the iconic hotel in 1974, but as early as 1980, the Manitonna was being referred to as an eyesore. By 1996 it was considered an embarrassment to Brockville's downtown, and was torn down. Over the next decade, several plans were submitted to fill in the void on King St. with the Wedgewood Retirement Residence ultimately securing the prime downtown location in 2006.

Submitted by N.W.

New Holiday Exhibit looks at life in Brockville during Second World War

When war was declared in 1939, many locals rushed to sign up. As in previous conflicts, the Brockville Rifles were called into service. The new Officers' Training Centre, located on Ormond Street, trained military leaders from across the country. Local factories produced goods to send overseas. Huge crowds gathered at the Brockville Train Station to wave the soldiers off.

Once the soldiers left, those back home went on as best they could. But with so many away, the holidays were much different. People were left to wonder, how could we celebrate when the world was at war?

This is the theme of a new holiday exhibit opening this fall at the museum. *Holidays Back Home: Brockville and WWII* explores how Brockville's ordinary people celebrated the holidays while supporting the war effort.

While our holiday exhibits are typically designed for the school children that come to the museum in December, given the subject matter, we have kept an adult audience in mind with this one. The exhibit will be opening in November, to give more people the opportunity to take it in.

We had great fun searching through archival materials to piece together Brockville's story of how holidays were celebrated during the Second World War. Some of the pieces that will be on display include an issue of the Blitz Magazine from the Officers' Training Centre, a holiday letter written by a local soldier to his family back home, and a WWII teacher's guide featuring a story by a local educator.

The exhibit will be open in time for Remembrance Day and will on display until mid-January.

Submitted by A.M.



Canadian Women's Service Corp on parade on King St. (Cropped image).

Volunteer Open House & Information Session



The museum currently has volunteer openings for visitors' services (front desk receptionist). Responsibilities include greeting visitors, handling gift shop and admission sales, and directing phone calls. Shifts are 2 hours once a week (Monday-Friday, between 10 and 5). If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering with the museum in this capacity, please consider attending our upcoming Open House/Information Session on Tuesday, November 17th at 2pm or contact Viktor at the museum.

2015 Partnerships

This year the museum had the opportunity to partner with a number of groups to deliver mandate-related programming and events. In May, we worked with Brockville's Dutch community and friends in England and the Netherlands to present a special day of remembrance. In August, we partnered with Brockville's Irish Cultural Society to present an exhibit celebrating the life and works of William Yeats. Some of the museum's art pieces were put on display at St. Lawrence College in September thanks to a partnership with the Public Library and the College. Culture Days and British Home Child Day gave us an opportunity to work the Leeds and Grenville Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and the Ontario East British Home Child Family to present a rich day of lectures and research information. These partnerships keep us busy, but allow us to offer an increased variety of mandate-related programs that respond to the needs of our community.



On September 26th, the Brockville Museum hosted the Ontario East British Home Child Family and the Leeds and Grenville Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society to recognize and celebrate Home Child Day and this unique history. Lectures were held in the Carriage Hall and information booths were set up in the Classroom. Eighty people attended this free educational event which was also held in conjunction with Culture Days.

Submitted by N.W.



More People Unveiled



Four new "People of Brockville" panels were unveiled in June: Caesar Congo (sponsored by Doris Stewart, pictured), the Jones and Buell families (sponsored by Robert Palmer), "Sally Grant" (sponsored by the Leeds & Grenville Law Association, represented by Culic Clinton, pictured here), and R.H. Lindsay (sponsored by Margaret Williams). The Museum now has fifteen "People of Brockville" panels on display throughout the museum. In the spring, these panels will be brought together into one room, along with related artifacts, to form a new permanent exhibit, celebrating Brockville's people and our social history. Once installed, we will begin planning Phase II and introduce more "People" to the exhibit.

Another Great Silent Auction



The Friends Annual Kitsch & Collectibles Silent Auction took place on October 2 & 3 and was once again a tremendously successful fundraiser for the friends, bringing in over \$2,000. Thank you everyone who donated or bid on objects!

How to stay up to date on museum goings-on

The museum is a busy place, and sometimes we don't get all our events and programs scheduled and placed in The Monitor, but there are lots of ways to stay up to date on all our goings on!

1) Provide us with an email address: this is the most efficient way for us to get the information you want to know directly to you in a timely fashion.

2) Follow us on Facebook: in addition to posts about our upcoming events, we are always sharing photos from our collection and cool Brockville stories.

3) Check our website: we try to keep our website up to date with detailed descriptions of all our events and programs. Stay tuned... we've got a whole new website coming soon!

4) On-line calendars: we publish to 8 different on-line calendars, including the Frontenac Arch Biosphere, Brockville Tourism, and Snap'd.

5) In Print: we distribute press-releases for all our major events to all the local press, and usually, they do print them! Most of our events get listed on the Snap'd calendar, but sometimes we do miss something (so it's always good to double check online or by giving us a call).

6) On television: for all our major events we get to sit down with Doreen Barnes on Cogeco Brockville's FYI, so check it out!

7) At the museum: flyers with our upcoming events are usually available at the front desk and our lobby television scrolls through the details of everything that's coming up.

Do you know of an upcoming museum event or program? Spread the word. Word-of-mouth is a great way to keep people in the know!

Submitted by N.W.

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

Special Hallowe'en Tour!
Friday, October 30th @ 4pm & 7pm
Reservations Recommended

Tickets \$6/person
*not recommended for children under 10

Pink Pills Anyone?



Curator/Director, Natalie Wood, dressed in a costume based on one used by George Fulford in marketing Dr. William's Pink Pills for Pale People, offering some "pink pills" to a bust of Fulford himself at the Museum's Fundraising Dinner held on September 23rd. The evening celebrated the success of the Brockville business and featured "testimonials" and a five course meal that drew inspiration from some of the over 80 countries that sold the iconic pills.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Volunteer Cathy Baxter has been volunteering at the Brockville Museum for almost two years. Her cheery demeanor and the fact that she refuses to be intimidated by a computer has made her an invaluable asset to the Open Drawer project.

Her wish to learn more about Brockville's past is what motivated her to volunteer at the museum. Little did she know that she would get more than she bargained for! Since her start in March 2014, she has spent over 175 hours adding to our collection database by inputting information about the objects and documents that the museum owns. She has told me that she finds the work fascinating and rewarding! She comes by her love of history honestly. Her father was George McNamara, one of the original members of the Brockville Infantry Company (1862), a well-known group of local military re-enactors.

Having a strong connection to Brockville certainly helps with this type of work. Growing up on "The Hill" (Schofield Hill, where the water tower is located), she attended TISS until graduating in the early 1980s. Like so many of us from small town Ontario she went off to the city in search of opportunity.

Clutching in her hand a degree in office systems administration from our own St. Lawrence College, she worked in the insurance business for many years. Interestingly, one of the firms she worked for was one that specialized in insurance for non-profit institutions that enrich the lives of other, such as churches and museums – with all profits being given back to that community.

Like so many of us who had also done the same thing, she and her husband reached the stage where they were ready to return to a quieter life. From the Yonge and Eglinton neighbourhood in Toronto to Pickering with the arrival of her two daughters. In 2013 they continued that eastward



Open drawer Volunteer, Cathy Baxter poses for a picture in the museum's gardens.

move, this time all the way back to her hometown.

Cathy keeps herself busy – in addition to the museum, she enjoys kayaking, hiking, snowshoeing, cycling, woodworking, knitting and baking – and the occasional bout of travelling! She admits to having Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plumb books as her guilty pleasure. But her true love is Max, not her husband, but her guinea pig. Max apparently thinks he's more human than guinea pig – reinforced by the "Some Pig" sign on his cage (a reference to E. B. White's book *Charlotte's Web*).

Submitted by V.K.



The Government of Ontario's annual Volunteer Service Award Ceremony was held on June 26th. Anniversary pins were presented to: Jean Mather, Barb and Harold Healy, Carl Knights, and Doug Smith.

Friends Executive News

Resignation

It is with sadness that the Friends Executive announce the resignation of Jean Ouellet as Treasurer and Co-Chair. Jean has served in these demanding roles for over five years, and understandably it was time for him to focus on his other volunteer activities. Although we will miss him at our Executive Meetings, Jean will still be around the museum as a dedicated volunteer. Thank you Jean for all your years of service in this taxing role!

Friends AGM

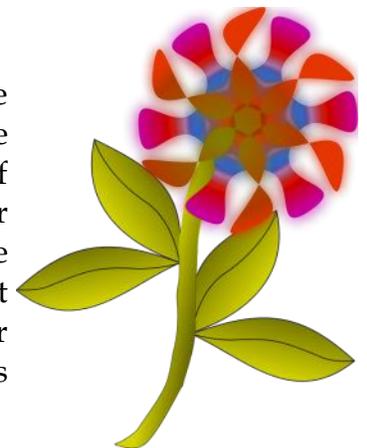
A brief reminder that the Friends Annual General Meeting will take place February 13th, 2016 (the second Saturday of February) at 10am at the museum.

Looking for Executive Members

Are you interested in taking on a leadership role with the Friends? We're always on the search for new Executive Members. Meetings are held bi-monthly and last about one hour. Executive Members vote on how to spend money and help coordinate fundraising events to bring the money in. The current executive includes: Doug Smith, Elliot Parker, Doreen Barnes, Shirley Avery, and Ralph Newson. If you are interested in finding out more, or signing up, please contact staff or Doug Smith directly at 613-342-7924.

2016 Garden Tour

The Friends are considering running the "Hidden Gardens of Brockville" Garden Tour again in 2016. If you are interested in helping out or would like to offer your garden, please let us know!



Some Exterior Facelifts

Visitors to the museum may have noticed that our board and batten section has been transformed with a new paint scheme. A new paint job was just one of our capital projects approved by City Hall this year. In the coming weeks we will also be installing two handrails at the front entrance to help patrons better access the museum, and navigate the sloped grade. Early in the summer we also installed a new sign at the rear of the museum facing Hardy Park, thanks to a donation from the Friends of the Brockville Museum.



Museum Curator/Director, Natalie Wood poses with volunteers Bob King and David Duc around the museum's new exterior sign that faces Hardy Park. Bob and David helped install the new sign and Harold Healy gave the old frame a new coat of paint.

Submitted by N.W.

Looking for Exhibit Sponsors

Thanks to you, 15 "People of Brockville" exhibit panels are now on display in the museum. Although we're not entirely done with "our people", for now, we are shifting focus to our larger exhibit goals.

We have a very ambitious exhibit plan for 2016 and 2017, and we need your help to make it happen! 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. It is expected that "permanent exhibits" will be in place for at least five years, while temporary exhibits have a defined end date.

Brockville's River Story: (Permanent Exhibit) this exhibit will include a look at the shift from industry-dominated waterfront to recreational/commercial, our boat-building past, and the river as the centre of our recreational pastimes. This exhibit will compliment our "Brockville's Rail Story" opening in February, 2016. **Total Cost \$2,500.**

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!

Submitted by N.W.

Fall-Winter Calendar of Events

Monday, October 19th:

Election Day! Get out and Vote!

Visit www.museums.ca/site/election2015 to learn about each party's cultural platform.

Wednesday, October 28th:

Bus Tour to Montreal

Museum of Fine Arts: Beaver Hall Group Exhibit

Friday, October 30th:

Brockville's Criminal Past Historical Walking Tour
@ 4pm & 7pm

Monday, November 9th:

Members-Only Exhibit Preview @ 4pm-6pm

Monday, November 9th:

Genealogical Society Meeting @ 7:30

Learn More about the Open Drawer Project

Thursday, November 12th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm

Distilleries & Breweries

Friday, November 27th:

Annual Beer Tasting Event

Thursday, December 10th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm

Old Fashioned Toys

Thursday, January 14th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm

Postcards

February TBD:

Exhibit Openings for

Brockville's Rail Story

& the ROM's Seeds in Disguise

Tuesday, February 2nd:

Annual Lecture Series Kicks Off

Tuesdays until March 1st @ 10am

For more information on any of these events please check out our website at www.brockvillemuseum.com or call us at 613-342-4397