

2015

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

2015 was an exciting year for the Brockville Museum. There was definitely evidence that we were emerging from the other side of the proverbial tunnel and that we were, in fact, still very much intact and, dare I say it, even thriving. It was a year of seeing results from many of the initiatives that we had recently put in place, designed primarily to increase visitation and improve efficiencies, including the Open Drawer Project.

Work on the Open Drawer Project transitioned from three-dimensional objects to the much anticipated photographic and archival collection. Despite the challenge of reconciling an old cataloguing system with current standards and the new database, this new phase in the project is exciting and our team of Open Drawer volunteers have remained active and committed. A sincere thanks goes out to our volunteers for their hard work and dedication, without whom this project would still be nothing more than a dream. Though it will take some years yet to get all our photographs and archival documents entered and online, progress is steady. By the end of 2015 the museum officially announced the availability of our on-line database as a means for the public to access our holdings- a decisive step that celebrated the excruciating planning, solid commitment and real success of this long-awaited and multi-year project.

Simultaneously we put a great deal of effort into increasing the museum's visibility in 2015, which included launching a new website. The new website is more modern and reflective of our brand. In addition to directing visitors to our online database, the site serves to provide information on museum events, programs and exhibits in a concise, modern and dynamic way.

2015 also saw us improve the museum's visibility by installing exterior banners, a new exterior sign facing Hardy Park and a new promotional rack card. Much of our regular advertising was also updated and made more uniform to reflect our new brand.

It is here, with heartfelt thanks, that I must acknowledge the incredible and steadfast support given us by the Friends of the Brockville Museum. None of these initiatives would have been possible without their financial backing. In 2015, the Friends contributed over \$7,000 towards conservation supplies, marketing material, exhibits and the Open Drawer Project. This important financial contribution fills a void in the museum's operating funding, serving primarily to support collections and exhibitions. The museum remains grateful for the enviable support that it receives from the municipal government, without which we could not possibly exist, however it is the continued efforts and support from our volunteers with the Friends that allow us to professionally and dynamically perform our role as a museum.

Another significant initiative launched in 2015 was our Criminal Past Walking Tours. In our 2014 Strategic Plan we suggested implementing more on-site programs with the goal of increasing museum visitation; with the museum as the starting and ending point, we believed it could not only help our

visibility, but also our visitation. This theory proved very accurate. We had guests for every tour run during the summer months, which for an inaugural program is astonishing.

Combined, these initiatives, designed to increase visibility and visitation, proved successful. General visitation was up by almost 20% from any of the previous three years. Although an improving US dollar and lower gas prices likely contributed to this increase in visitation, we should not underestimate our own initiatives to capture these visitors and draw them to our site. Nor should we underestimate the hard work carried out by staff to achieve these results. These initiatives do not happen on their own, nor do they automatically produce results; it takes a tremendous amount of effort and perseverance on the part of the team to bring these projects and outcomes to fruition. To this end I commend and thank my team for powering through this dogged year and bringing these results to fruition.

One of the truly amazing things about the Brockville Museum is just how entrenched it really is in the community, and that it does serve as a community gathering point. As such, I would be remiss to talk about 2015 and not highlight the organic community partnerships with which we were a part, including: Brockville's Dutch Community, the Brockville Irish Cultural Society, St. Lawrence College, the Brockville Library, Ontario East British Home Child Family and the Leeds and Grenville Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. What was most exciting about these partnerships was how well they not only supported the individual organizations, but how well they concurrently helped to further the museum's mission.

To close 2015, we made an official budgetary appeal to council to make our part-time Administrative Assistant/Registrar position full-time, the natural culmination of our Open Drawer Project and a priority identified in our 2014 Strategic Plan. To our delight and relief, council voted in favour of the incremental request item, and it will take effect when the 2016 Budget is officially approved in the new year. This definitely helps improve our internal efficiencies and will help us to better meet the needs of our collection and community.

As we make significant progress on many fronts, the foremost challenge that continues to daunt museum staff on a regular basis is our limited physical capacity. Lack of appropriate collection storage space remains a real concern. Despite taking on the deaccessioning process where appropriate and attempting to better utilise existing space, we have run out of room. Our ability to accept and care for donations of large artifacts and large collections are significantly hampered. In 2015 we reopened the discussion of expansion (and even relocation) in earnest, but faced numerous obstacles in pursuing any real solutions. Despite the lack of options available to us, this conversation must continue in a real way into 2016 and beyond.

That said, we look ahead to 2016 with much anticipation. We have a plan to continue to roll out initiatives aimed at further increasing visitation, including a full schedule of new permanent and temporary exhibits. We are also excited for the new opportunities that will be brought about with the long-awaited opening of the Aquatarium. There is little doubt that 2016 will be an incredibly busy and demanding year for us at the Brockville Museum, but this is a challenge that we heartedly accept, equipped with the successes of 2015 and a confidence in our team, our volunteers and our community.

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 2015 the Board of Management met ten times.

In 2015 the Board of Management was comprised of:

- Chairman: Brian Porter
- Secretary: Chuck Quick
- Council Representative: Phil Deery
- 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 2015 budget was \$223,605.

Key Expenses ¹ :	
Staffing	\$219,856
Office Expenses	\$12,551
Physical Plant	\$48,074
Programming	\$9,000
Collections Management & Exhibits	\$6,000

Main Revenue ² :	
Donations and Service Charges	\$17,500
Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG)	\$27,176
Programs and Events	\$26,200

Although the Brockville Museum is principally supported by the City of Brockville, the museum is responsible for raising a significant amount of funds through donations, admissions, rental fees and through educational programming and special events. The museum's annual budget is limited to operations, so funds for projects and other initiatives must be sought through other sources including the Friends of the Brockville Museum and provincial and federal grants, including Young Canada Works.

In 2015, the Brockville Museum received its annual Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) of \$27,176 towards operations; the Friends of the Brockville Museum covered nearly \$8,000 worth of expenses (including conservation and exhibit supplies, advertising and the Open Drawer Project); and the museum received a Young Canada Works grant for one summer student as well as for one student from Canada Summer Jobs (via the Friends).

A copy of the 2015 Brockville Museum's general ledger report can be found in the appendix of this document.

Fundraising

In 2015 the museum continued to garner the support of the community through a wide array of special events.

The following chart shows the total monies raised at all special and fundraising events held by the Brockville Museum during 2015:

Date	Event	Net	# participants
September 23	Pink Pills Anniversary Dinner	\$450.00	18
October 28	Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Bus Tour	\$435.00	39

¹ Based on budgeted amounts (projected)

² Based on budgeted amounts (projected)

In addition, the Friends of the Brockville Museum held the following special and fundraising events during 2015:

Date	Event	Net	# participants
April 27 – May 8	Book Sale	\$1635.00	191
June 27 & 28	Hidden Garden Tour	\$2808.00	321
October 2 & 3	Silent Auction	\$2208.00	48
November 27	Beer Tasting	\$731.00	37
November 29	Fudge Fundraiser	\$247.50	18

In 2015 the museum increased its focus on soliciting donations specifically for exhibits. Continuing with the “People of Brockville” panel sponsorship program, 6 panels were unveiled on February 14 and another 4 on June 19. Monies were also given by the late Robert Palmer for the new railway exhibit being installed in the former St. Alban’s Room.

Collections

Respectfully submitted by Alison Dingleline, Administrative Assistant/Registrar

In 2015, volunteers completed the transfer of the 6,000 three dimensional items into the new online database. All new 2015 acquisitions have photographs attached, and co-op students have been working to photograph the remaining collection, with new images being attached daily.

In January, volunteers began entering in records for the Museum's Archival collection. This was done in two parts. The Museum's archival catalogue records contained valuable, though insufficient, information about the object, making it imperative that the objects be recatalogued with the new database in mind.

- Part one dealt with entering in acquisition information about each archival object. This information was found on the objects catalogue record. Information like donor, accession number, object name and description were entered in during this phase. Since interpretation and information were minimal, Volunteers completed this part of the project in early August.
- Part two deals with handling and cataloguing objects. Volunteers received Collections Management and Care and Handling training by staff in preparation for this part of the project. Volunteers are each assigned an archival box that houses items organized by subject matter. On an inventory sheet, the volunteer records the accession number, object name, and any foreseeable issues surrounding the object (is the object a reproduction, is/isn't there an accession number assigned to the object, do two or more identical items exist). This document will act as a Table of Contents for each box that highlights objects that should be reviewed at a later date. Additionally, volunteers are cataloguing the objects in the database by recording information like condition, measurements, associations, and locations.

The Museum has received three Co-op students during the 2015 year that have photographed, inventoried and recatalogued items in the Museums archival and three dimensional collections. These three students have been valuable assets for the continuation of the Open Drawer Project.

The Museum accepted roughly 400 objects into its permanent collection during the 2015 year. It should be noted that many of these items came from out of town donors, ranging from New Zealand, Florida, and Toronto. In addition to the Collection Committee taking a more selective approach on which objects to accession, they have also gained a greater understanding about the importance of responsible collections management and evaluating your collection on a regular basis. With this in mind, we successfully reviewed and deaccessioned 109 items. 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 continued to enhance our existing exhibits while installing a number of temporary exhibits and displays in 2015. We also partnered with a couple of community organizations to present unique exhibitions both on- and off- site. 2015 also saw us make concrete exhibition plans for 2016 and beyond, which includes procuring travelling exhibitions from the Royal Ontario Museum and the Archives of Ontario (an exhibition plan can be found in the appendix of this document).

Perhaps the most notable exhibit development of 2015 was our People of Brockville panels. Launched in 2014, this exhibit campaign sought sponsorships from our members and supporters for text panels celebrating Brockville's notable citizens. This campaign proved so successful in 2015 that we had to put the campaign on pause and decided to plan an entire exhibit around the panels (for installation in 2016) as we ran out of space to display the 16 panels that had been sponsored.

Another exiting exhibit project in 2015 was a partnership with St. Lawrence College and the Brockville Library. These two local educational institutions planned an exhibition at the Marianne van Silfhout Gallery (at St. Lawrence College) celebrating Brockville's art history. The installation included a number of works of art featuring local artists and local scenes from over fifty years ago or more. The museum agreed to lend several pieces from our collection for the initiative, including pieces by R.H. Lindsay and R.L. Wright. It was a great opportunity to showcase some of the museum's works of art not generally displayed.

Exhibit	Description	Dates	Location	Type
50 Years of the Flag	A look at the history of the Canadian flag and the role played by Brockville resident John Ross Matheson.	February 2015 - August 2015	Beecher House	Temporary Exhibit
Brockville Snowshoe Club	A small display telling the history of Brockville's Snowshoe Club	February 2015	Brockville Public Library	Temporary Display
Accessioning and Deaccessioning	A small display explaining the museum process of accessioning and deaccessioning.	March 2015- TBD	Lobby	Temporary Display
Made in Brockville Display Case	A showcase of over a dozen products once manufactured in Brockville.	Installed June 2015	Upper Gallery	Permanent Display
Made in Brockville: Automatic Electric	A display highlighting the manufacturing of telephones in Brockville.	Installed June 2015	Upper Gallery	Semi-permanent Display
The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats	Presented in partnership with the Brockville Irish Cultural Society this was a travelling display telling the life story of Yeats.	August 2015	Beecher House	Travelling Exhibit (from the National Library of Ireland)
Fulford's Patent Medicine Business	A look at the Fulford patent medicine empire, including Dr.	September 2015	Brockville Public	Temporary Display

	Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. (Celebrating 125 years since Fulford obtained the patent for the Pink Pills).		Library	
Landscapes and Legends: The History of Art in Brockville	This joint collaboration between the Marianne van Silfhout Gallery and the Brockville Public Library boasted artwork from the permanent collection of the Brockville Public Library, Brockville Museum, as well as private collectors.	September 4 - October 16, 2015	Marianne van Silfhout Gallery (St. Lawrence College)	Temporary Exhibit
Stitching Expressions	A display by the Artistic Stitchers showcasing their pieces of needlework.	September 2015	Beecher House	Temporary Display
Holidays Back Home	An exhibit exploring what the holidays were like in Brockville during the Second World War.	October 2015 - January 2016	Annex	Temporary Exhibit

2015 was a busy year for developing displays and augmenting our exhibits, but much work was also carried out in laying the foundation for 2016's demanding exhibition schedule. We look forward to the exciting new projects awaiting us in 2016.

Interpretation & Education

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

2015 was another successful year for programming at the Brockville Museum. We introduced some new initiatives (walking tours) and had continuing support for our perennial favourites (lecture series). Overall, our net income was higher than 2014. In total, we presented 214 programs - 9 more than in 2014 - with a combined audience of 3288 people.

This report outlines the highlights for 2015 as well as giving 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 vast majority of programs are for the older members of our community. In 2015, our audience numbers were lower than in previous years. This is because our regular user groups, although smaller, make up the majority of the programs we present. We classify the type of program in the following categories:

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

Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Seniors' Residences

Representing 47.5% of the total number of programs presented. They 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 socialise 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 7 programs in 2015.

The long-running Artifact Therapy program turned 28 years old in 2015. Over the course of the year, 37 different presentations were delivered at the site. This successful program, generously funded by the Rotary Club of Brockville, continues into 2016 with new topics developed to complement those that are being re-used.

The presentations that are developed for the Artifact Therapy program are re-used for speaking engagements and monthly visits to local nursing homes and seniors' residences. Programs are regularly presented at Sherwood Park Manor and 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).

In all, the nursing and retirement homes received 58 programs in 2015. 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 special 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 2014-2015 school year, we had lower enrollment and only offered the Kindergarten - Grade 2 and the Grade 6 - Grade 8 sessions.

In the 2015-2016 school year, enrollment shifted to have the Grade 3-5 (STEP1) and Grade 6-8 (STEP 2) offered every month.

In all, there were 17 homeschool sessions presented in 2015.

School Groups

School groups from as far away as Smiths Falls & Rockland participated in our programs this year, in addition to schools that are able to walk to the museum. In total, this meant almost 386 children took part in our programming in 2015: a smaller total than last year. Of these, there was an equal split in school locations. 8 were Brockville schools and 8 were schools from outside of Brockville.

Surprisingly, it seems that renaming our First Nations history program from Life on Turtle Island to Unwritten Histories (to better describe the interpretive theme of the program) brought renewed interest. In all, 5 sessions of this program were presented. 3 of these were presented off-site to classes at Cordick Education Centre and Maynard Public School.

This year's seasonal exhibit "Holidays Back Home: Brockville in WWII" was not as well received by teachers looking for December programming. It seems that to teach 'traditional holidays,' the WWII era was not considered 'old' enough. To compensate, we also offered the Settler Games program. Reactions from visitors to the exhibit were positive.

In total, 16 programs were presented in 2015 (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: 5 for First Nations, 4 for Victorian Summer Games, 2 for Settler Games, 2 for Holiday exhibit, and 2 for the GPS program Battlefield Brockville. Finally, an on-bus downtown tour was given to a school group that was passing through after a trip to Kingston.

Heritage Camps

In 2015 we once again offered March Break and Summer camps. However, it was decided that this would be the final year of summer programming at the museum.

Our March Break program looked at all sorts of stories. From telling stories, looking at local history and creating our own books, the 8-10 children that attended each day had a lot of fun.

Our summer camps included 4 topics: The Circus, Hometown Heroes, Curator for a Day and Soldiers of the Stage. Our Summer Programming Assistant, Emily Tobin, created the activities for each of the camps and ran the walking tours.

For the first program, we learned all about the circus and put on a performance. During Hometown Heroes, representatives from the police, fire and paramedic departments came to the museum – with their vehicles! Our budding curators created a special case exhibit that was on display in the Children's Room. Finally, our young 'Brockettes' practiced their skits and songs for a performance on the last day of camp.

With low enrollment, and the impending opening of the Aquatarium, it was decided this would be our last year offering summer programs at the museum. Instead, our summer student will be focussing more on the walking tours and other initiatives.

Speaking Engagements

Throughout the year, the museum is asked to address groups or service clubs. In 2015, there were 6 of these speaking engagements for local church groups, historical societies and more. This is a great 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 Adult Lecture Series held every Tuesday in February and the first Tuesday of March. The Lecture series remains as popular as ever, bringing in 286 people for all 6 lectures. This made the average attendance 48 people per lecture. Normally, we only offer 5 lectures, but bringing Mark Peck all the way from Toronto meant that we added an evening lecture. Sadly, it was not well-attended.

Birthday Parties

Birthday party numbers were down in 2015. We are getting many requests, but we are unable to accommodate parties on weekends in the fall-winter-spring. In all, we hosted 2 parties this year.

Youth Groups & Sleepovers

Many other groups took part in programming this year which do not fit into our regular categories. These include the Scouts (Cubs) and Girl Guides (Sparks) that visited for the Christmas program. We hosted one group of Guides for a sleepover program this year.

Finally, some of the Day Care and other Child Minding groups regularly schedule programs in the summer. This year, groups from the YMCA summer camp participated in the Victorian Summer Games program. Kampus Kids and the Presbyterian Church Youth Group came for a P.A. Day program.

In all we hosted 1 sleepover and 6 other youth group programs in 2015.

Tea With Amy

This year we continued the value-added program called “Tea With Amy.” On the second Thursday of the month, we offer a 45 minute presentation (free with admission) 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 2015 and attendance ranged from three to sixteen participants. This will continue into 2016 (with a hiatus during the Lecture Series).

Walking Tour

With no formal walking tours being offered in Brockville since Fulford stopped doing ghost walks, we decided to fill the void. Running at 4:00 and 7:00 on Friday evenings, participants heard some of the strange stories of Brockville’s Criminal Past. This was not just a retelling of sordid tales, the theme of the program was to connect the development of Brockville with its connection to the Counties Courthouse.

This initiative proved more successful than we imagined – much of this due to the enthusiasm shown by Brockville Tourism.

Including tours offered in September, we ran the tour 19 times. This included a private group tour for a large group of youth from Ottawa. We only had to cancel one tour due to no audience. We did, however, have to run a consecutive tour one night because so many people showed up! This program will continue in 2016 with the addition of some new stories.

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 fifth year we have presented this program. The cooperation will continue into 2016.

The Earth Day Summit, a program presented by the Environmental Education Network (of which the museum is a member) was held at Landon Bay again this year. 80 grade 5 students from throughout the FAB region attended. Once again we led the 'All-Natural Department Store Hike' looking at items available in the natural environment for the early European settlers. The hike was run 4 times that day.

Summary

Overall, 2015 proved to be one of the busiest for programming since I started here in 2007. Our programs were delivered with the help of museum staff and our wonderful volunteers. 3288 people were in attendance for the many varied programs that we offer. In all, profit for education programs was just over \$11,900. This is slightly higher than in 2014. In general, we are delivering more programs to smaller audiences. However, with the 'Tea With Amy' program and the walking tours, we are bringing more people through our doors than we have in previous years.

Compared to the 2007 total of 147 programs, we see that our capacity for programming has increased substantially over the past 8 years. Hopefully, this trend will continue as people hear about the quality programs that we offer to visitors of all ages at the Brockville Museum.

Research

Respectfully submitted by Jean Mather, Volunteer Researcher

The Brockville Museum has a collection of newspaper clippings, books, directories and other items which help provide background information when researching the city's past. This resource is used to assist in answering questions put to the Museum by members of the public, in providing background information for new exhibits and in preparing presentations to the public by staff. Staff members and the volunteer researchers work together to complete these requests.

This year the Research Team welcomed volunteer Margaret Lawrence to assist with this effort. Her considerable organizational skills, computer knowledge and general enthusiasm for Brockville's past are proving to be valuable assets as we endeavor to improve this service.

We received 101 research requests from the public this year. Information about the history of newly purchased homes, facts about long dead relatives and locations of business from the past were once again popular topics. Requests about the sculptor, Marjorie Winslow, Gilmour's Grocery Store, the Mormon Church in Brockville and the St. Lawrence Engine Company were a few of the specific topics researched.

Many of the files are becoming large, unwieldy and time consuming to search. The research team has been spending considerable time and effort dividing them into more manageable units. Another initiative is to create a searchable index on the computer in order that the file containing the needed information can be quickly identified. Weaning ourselves off a paper index is a slow process and many additional key words need to be included in the index before this is fully functional.

New items, suitable for the research files or library, are acquired frequently and placed appropriately by the volunteers. Sometimes these items come as part of larger donations to the collection and sometimes as a response to a research request when there is a mutual exchange of information.

The Museum Curator, Natalie Wood, informed the volunteer researchers just prior to the Christmas break that the upstairs office area was to be reconfigured and that the library was to be moved. We look forward to working in our new, more efficient space, in 2016 and continuing to support Museum staff as well as providing a service to the public.

Conservation

No significant conservation treatments were carried out in 2015, 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 response to concerns over uncomfortably cold temperatures experienced in the basement of Beecher House, where the Leeds and Grenville Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society meets, further investigation was carried out in 2015. It was discovered that a valve was closed preventing any heat from entering the area's duct work. Once opened, it seemed to relieve much of the problem (it was therefore determined that a new furnace was no longer a priority).

A cold winter followed by a freeze-thaw cycle lead to two significant problems early in the year: an alarm on the emergency exit door malfunctioning (caused by water seeping into the door frame and freezing) and a water leak in the lobby (caused by an ice dam). A new emergency exit door was installed in the summer and remedial work was carried out on the lobby roof to help prevent a future issue.

During regular maintenance of our HVAC system in the spring, a small gas leak was discovered in an exterior PVC pipe. The pipe was replaced.

While the gardeners were clearing weeds from our patio area (and attempting to re-set uneven stones), they discovered a large hole under one section. A city crew came and filled in the hole.

A toilet in the woman's washroom leaked over a weekend, significantly enough to drip into the basement kitchen. Ultimately, there was enough water damage in the kitchen to require all the ceiling tiles be replaced and a new range purchased (water had gotten into the old range and caused the circuit board to malfunction).

2015 also saw us reopen 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. The Board of Management, however, agreed that such discussions must continue.

Capital projects undertaken in 2015 included exterior painting (the board and batten), the installation of a handrail at the museum's entrance, refinishing the office floors and painting the office walls. Together, these projects refreshed the look and feel of the museum inside and out.

Community

Respectfully submitted by Viktor Kaczowski, Community Engagement Officer

The museum's emphasis on visibility and engagement was reflected in a much-increased community presence in 2015. In addition to new programs (such as the highly successful walking tour) the museum improved its media and on-line presence, reached out to a broader variety of community groups, increased the museum's presence at various community events and partnered with a local business to raise funds for the museum. The museum's spectrum of services and variety of programs is 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
1554	2020	288	10	99	10	6037 ³

Hours of Operation

The museum's winter and summer regular hours of operation resulted in the museum being open to the public on 288 days totalling 2020 hours during 2015.

- 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 2015:

- 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.

³ note that statistics were not available for the months of November and December, so based on the monthly average, the actual number of website visitors for 2015 would be around 7200

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 2015, 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 16: Family Day
- May 4: Dutch Remembrance Day
- May 24 & May 25: Brockville & Thousand Islands Doors Open
- September 25: Ontario East British Home Child Day

In addition, members of the local community joined us for the following off-site event:

- October 28: Bus tour to the Beaver Hall Group exhibit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

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 2015 stood at 95. Over the course of 2015, 16 new volunteers (adult and student) were added to the roster, the majority of which were involved in visitor services.

These new recruits included 7 high-school students (3 co-op and 4 regular), most of whom completed their volunteer requirements within the calendar year.

For the past 15 years, clients of Career Services have been volunteering at the museum. The museum presently has two volunteers from Career Services, one helping with maintenance and one who is scanning images.

An information session was held on November 17 for anyone interested in volunteering in a visitor services capacity for which five individuals attended. A strong community presence, word-of-mouth, and the museum's website still seem to be the most effective way of sustaining our volunteer base.

Training

Recurring training sessions, particularly for the Open Drawer Project volunteers, continue to be undertaken. The Administrative Assistant/Registrar conducted extensive training relating to the second and third stages of the Open Drawer Project during 2015.

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 26, 2015. Anniversary pins were distributed as part of the Ministry of Culture's Volunteer Service Award program. Five museum volunteers were recognized at this event.

In a more social milieu, a catered volunteer luncheon was held on November 17, 2015 at the museum. There were 48 volunteers in attendance.

Administration

The City Volunteer Committee was formed in 2013 to better coordinate volunteer efforts between city departments as well as standardize policies and procedures. The committee had been trying to address issues relating to police checks and parking, as well as creating a volunteer handbook, establishing a better presence on the city's website, and making recommendations to the city on how to better recognize the city's volunteers. With the committee's input, the city's website has been updated to make information about volunteering for the city more prominent.

The parking issue was resolved with all museum volunteers receiving parking passes.

The issue of police checks for volunteers has finally been resolved. Procedures with regard to new volunteers have not changed – all new volunteers must submit a police check as per city policy. Upon the advice of Human Resources, existing volunteers who have a police check or for those that have never had a police check performed, are to submit a "Declaration of Attestation" every three years thereby swearing that they have had no criminal convictions during that time period.

The City Volunteer Committee is still trying to resolve the other outstanding issues.

Hours

Our volunteer hours increased to 6,216 during 2015, an increase of 8.9% over the previous year. This increase is due primarily to the efforts of the Open Drawer Project volunteers and other work on the collection, the extensive work put into the Friends' Garden Tour in June, and the increase in the number of co-op students in 2015.

The average number of hours committed by each volunteer has remained relatively consistent over the years, and has averaged 62.3 hours over the last 6 years

Work on the collection continues to make up the majority of the museum's volunteer efforts at 3307 hours or 53.2% (with the Open Drawer project accounting for 2401 hours or 38.6% of those hours), community (accounts for 2067 hours or 33.3%), with the remaining 13.5% of volunteer efforts being taken up by education, physical plant and governance. These proportions are virtually identical to those of 2014.

Outside the usual volunteer activity, during 2015 two volunteers worked on special projects to refurbish exhibit cases and undertake other carpentry work around the museum. For the second year museum volunteers also participated in the "Community Clean-up" city-wide event on May 2 with seven volunteers showing up to help.

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 2015 museum staff made 13 television appearances and 13 radio stints to promote museum activities. While Cogeco and CFJR have been the focal points of our media presence, the presence of EON has grown within the community and the museum is increasing its presence there.

Print Media

The Recorder and Times, St. Lawrence EMC, and SNAP 1000 Islands gave the museum excellent coverage over the course of 2015. The Recorder & Times profiled Viktor and his role at the museum in its January 31st edition, while in March the Ottawa Citizen ran an article showcasing the Brockville Museum and its cars.

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 2015 was 6037 (note that statistics were not available for the months of November and December, so based on the monthly average, the actual number of website visitors for 2015 would be around 7200). This compares to 5988 web visits in 2014.

A major revamp of the museum's website was undertaken during 2015 with the site being simplified and given a whole new look. Content was significantly revised to ensure that it not only reflected the museum's emphasis on visitors but also that it reflected the museum's core messaging and priorities.

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

Social Media

By the end of the year, we achieved almost 200 additional page likes to bring the total to 531. As expected, most of our followers are from Brockville with South Augusta, Ottawa, Kingston and Toronto 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 15 different countries.

Mid-year Facebook changed their algorithms, this especially affected business pages. It meant that for a few months we saw the views on our post drop dramatically. They began to rise and stabilise by the end of 2015.

The most viewed posts were those that had to do with familiar landmarks and people. The most shared and viewed post was for Con Darling's birthday. More than 16000 people saw that one post! Following that, TBT photos of the Royal Brock (3504) and summer heat wave (2450) were our highest views.

Most of our posts receive 100 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.

When the new website went live in the later months of the year, we saw an increase in page likes that were directed to our page from that web address. We attribute this to the button for Facebook on the header of the new page.

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 18%).

In 2016 we will continue to keep our Facebook page updated regularly to showcase what's new around the museum as well as showing some of the artifacts that are not on exhibit. In general, Facebook remains a great way to advertise our events. In 2016, continuing to intersperse the events with things that are of general interest remains a priority. We don't want it just to be an 'advertising' page. It is shown that people unlike your page if you spend too many posts trying to sell yourself and not enough time giving your readers something of general interest.

Other outreach activities

During 2015 other public appearances included:

- a booth at Ribfest
- a table at the August Downtown Sidewalk Sale

Partnerships

In August, the museum launched an initiative to better understand and ultimately co-ordinate the activities of other local heritage-related organizations, including the Public Library, Heritage Brockville, and the Leeds and Grenville Genealogical Society. The goal was to examine ways of better coordinating our efforts with regard to providing services for researchers. This includes examining the nature of research requests received by each organization, providing each other with a summary of our respective holdings and, where possible, examine ways of enhancing our individual holdings.

The committee's first initiative is the production of a guide for researchers interested in Brockville's history. This guide will be available on-line and in hard copy and will describe the various institutions that possess information relating to Brockville's history, the strengths of their holdings, and the services they can provide. The committee is hoping that it will be made available early 2016.

The Irish Cultural Society was once again an active partner with the Brockville Museum during 2015, resulting in an exhibit and poetry reading dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of W. B. Yeats.

While not a formal partnership, the Remington Museum of Ogdensburg, NY, visited the Brockville Museum during 2015 to examine our volunteer program as they were examining ways to revamp their own volunteer program.

Incoming bus tours

Thirteen incoming bus tour reservations were received for the 2015 season, however three were cancelled. Ten incoming bus tour groups were welcomed to the museum totaling 443 visitors. Of these tours, five were museum tours, two were "tea and tours", and three were city bus tours. This was increased from the eight tours received in the previous year. These bus tours brought in revenue of \$1,600.

Human Resources

Staffing

The Brockville Museum has two permanent full-time employees and two permanent part-time employees, additional contract staff are hired as funding permits (i.e. Young Canada Works, weekend students). We were also very lucky to host three high school coop students in 2015.

2015 Staff Included:	
Curator/Director	Natalie Wood
Interpretation and Public Program Coordinator	Amy Mackie
Administrative Assistant/Registrar	Alison Dingleline
Community Engagement Officer	Viktor Kaczowski
Summer Students	Emily Tobin (Young Canada Works) Ellen O'Dair (Canada Summer Jobs)
Weekend Students	Mallory Phillips Cole Pettum
Co-op Students	Alex L. (St. Mary-Winter/Spring 2015) Jhames J. (St. Mary- Fall 2015) Lea R. (South Grenville- Fall 2015)

In 2014 we updated the job descriptions for most staff, leaving just that of the Curator/Director to be updated in 2015. The new job description for the Curator/Director was approved by the board of management in May, 2015 (please see appendix).

One of the priorities identified in 2014 with regards to human resources, was the need to have a full-time registrar. This need was partially achieved when the duties of a registrar were added to the duties of the clerk in 2014 with the creation of the position "Administrative Assistant/Registrar". However, this did not address the need for full-time hours. In 2015, the Friends of the Brockville Museum helped to increase the hours of this position with a contribution to the Open Drawer Project. When preparing the 2016 budget, we prepared a proposal to Council asking to make this position full-time. Council approved, making the position of Administrative Assistant/Registrar permanent full-time effective 2016.

Professional Development

Thanks to a renewed commitment from City Hall to the museum's professional development budget, museum staff are able to seek out new learning opportunities. In 2015, the Interpretation and Public Program Coordinator was able to attend the International Interpretation Conference held in Montreal as well as continue working on her Certificate in Museum Studies by completing the "Artifacts" course. Additionally, both the Interpretation and Public Program Coordinator and the Curator/Director participated in the University of Leicester's on-line "Future Learn" program: "Behind the Scenes of the 21st Century Museum".

In addition to these museum-related training opportunities, the Curator/Director also took part in Provincially-mandated Accessibility training provided by the City of Brockville on "Creating Accessible Documents".

Appendix

- i. 2015 General Ledger
- ii. Exhibit Plan
- iii. 2015 Event Listing
- iv. New Curator/Director Job Description
- v. Statistics Chart
- vi. Chronology of Events (1970-2015)
- vii. In the News
- viii. 2015 Monitor Newsletters

General Ledger

CITY OF BROCKVILLE GL Department Report



GL5330 P
Date: May 11, 2016 T

Year : 2015
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		-878	-23811	0	-17500	6311	136
770101 Museum-Wages & Benefits		0	-2937	0	-4000	-1063	73
770618 Museum-Programs		-3430	-21891	0	-26200	-4309	84
770101 Museum-Wages & Benefits		13063	220958	0	219856	-1102	101
770115 Museum-HR Mgmt		27	1412	0	3000	1588	47
770125 Museum-Office Expense		1918	11561	0	12551	990	92
770131 Museum-Building Burden		8727	47461	0	48074	613	99
770615 Museum-Curatorial		14	8671	0	5600	-1071	119
770616 Museum-Exhibitions		28	1740	0	400	-1340	435
770618 Museum-Programs		1672	7472	0	9000	1528	83
MUSEUM Total		21142	221459	0	223605	2146	99

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
Made in Brockville: the story of Smart's (Remodelled)	Install Spring 2017	Upper Gallery	Permanent
River and Rail (Phase III: Block House & Tunnel)	Install Fall 2017	Beecher House (Hall)	Permanent
Ice Storm Remembered	January 2018	Annex	Temporary
TBD	March-October 2018	Annex	Temporary
Kid's Room (Remodelled): "Loyalists & Other Immigrant Stories"	Summer 2018	Beecher House	Permanent

2015 Event Listing

Thursday, January 8, 2 p.m.

"Tea with Amy":

Tuesday, February 3, 10 a.m. -12 noon

Lecture:

Tuesday, February 10, 10 a.m. -12 noon

Lecture:

Saturday, February 14, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Friends AGM

February

Flag Exhibit – St. Alban's Room

Monday February 16

Family Day

Tuesday, February 17, 10 a.m. -12 noon

Lecture:

Tuesday, February 24, 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Lecture:

Tuesday, March 3, 10 a.m. -12 noon

Lecture:

Thursday, April 9, 2 p.m.

"Tea with Amy":

Monday, April 27 until Friday May 8, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Annual book sale

Thursday, May 14, 2 p.m.

"Tea with Amy": *"All-Natural" Department Store*

May 23rd and 24th

Doors Open (free admission and behind the scenes tours)

Thursday, June 11, 2 p.m.

"Tea with Amy": Viktor will present *"Views of Blockhouse Island"*

June 27th & 28th :

"Hidden Gardens of Brockville" Garden Tour (Friends)

Fridays in July & August @ 4pm & 7pm

"Brockville's Criminal Past" historical walking tours presented by the Brockville Museum.

Thursday, July 9, 2 p.m.

"Tea with Amy": 1000 Islands Tour circa 1910

August

Yeats Exhibit, presented in partnership with the Irish Cultural Society (in Beecher House)

Thursday, August 13, 2 p.m.

“Tea with Amy”:

September

Artistic Stitchers’ display of creative works in Beecher House

Thursday, September 10, 2 p.m.

“Tea with Amy”:

Friday, September 18, 12 noon – 5 p.m. & Sat. Sept. 19, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Annual Silent Auction

Saturday, September 26

British Home Child Day at the Brockville Museum

Thursday, October 8, 2 p.m.

“Tea with Amy”:

October 28

Bus tour to Musee des beaux arts in Montreal to see exhibit on the Beaver Hall group

November TDB

Opening of “The War at home” in the annex

Thursday, November 12, 2 p.m.

“Tea with Amy”:

Friday, November 27th

Annual “Raising a Pint” Beer Tasting Event presented by the Friends of the Brockville Museum

Thursday, December 10, 2 p.m.

“Tea with Amy”: Christmas theme

Curator/Director Job Description

Brockville Museum		Job Description	
Section	Personnel Procedure Manual	Current Issue Date	2015 06 08
Index Number	Museum - 01		
Subject	Job Description – Curator/Director (35 hours/week)		

Responsible Authority:	Chairman, Museum Board
Approval Authority:	Board of Directors, Museum Board
Date First Approved:	08-June-2015
Date Last Reviewed:	08-February -2015
Mandatory Review Date:	08-June-2020

GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Brockville Museum Curator/Director will be responsible for the overall operation and administration of the Brockville Museum in keeping with museum standards as set out by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Reporting to the Museum Board of Management, the Curator/Director will ensure that the museum provides a relevant and engaging visitor experience as well as a secure repository for objects relating to the community's history.

The Curator/Director will ensure that the museum's mandate, messages, and goals are effectively developed, promoted and communicated through all areas of museum operations:

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES

Governance and Human Resources:

- Work closely with the Board to develop and implement plans and policies that reflect the needs of visitors, the community and the collection
- Liaise with City of Brockville Administration to nurture communication, foster support and promote partnerships
- Carry-out the recruitment and selection of staff with participation from the Board and the City of Brockville's Human Resources Department (when appropriate)
- Manage the orientation, training and performance of staff and volunteers
- Provide leadership that fosters a safe, respectful, collaborative and

creative work environment for staff and volunteers

Finance:

- Manage the Museum's operating budget and ensure that it is realistic, achievable, and consistent with museum and municipal plans
- Seek and prepare grant application for special projects, staffing and other activities
- Work with the Board to raise adequate funds to balance the budget and meet costs of special projects and other initiatives

Education and Interpretation:

- Provide direction on, and evaluation of, Museum educational and public programs
- Develop and manage a comprehensive schedule of changing temporary and permanent exhibitions
- Carry-out research to support educational programs and exhibitions

Collections and Conservation:

- Supervise all aspects of collections management, including documentation and conservation
- Work with the Collection Committee to acquire new objects and to carryout deaccessioning according to Museum policies, professional standards, and ethics
- Liaise with donors and community members to facilitate donations.
- Provide education to the public about Museum collection management Practices
- Coordinate public access to archival information
- Practise preventative conservation in caring for the collection by maintaining acceptable storage and environmental conditions and ensuring that safe care and handling methods are followed
- Ensure the long-term conservation and security of the collection

Community:

- Cultivate an environment of superior customer service and Museum excellence in order to provide a quality visitor experience
- Serve as the Museum's primary spokesperson
- Promote a strong and productive relationship between the Museum and the community
- Liaise regularly with the Friends of the Brockville Museum
- Foster relationships with other like-minded institutions locally and regionally as well as with municipal and provincial representatives in order to advance the interests of the Museum

Physical Plant:

- Provide a safe environment for visitors, volunteers and staff
- Oversee building maintenance and grounds keeping activities
- Make appropriate tools, training and supplies available to staff and volunteers
- Ensure that the Museum adheres to a current emergency preparedness

plan

QUALIFICATIONS

A post-secondary degree in related field such as Museum Management and Curatorship or Applied Museum Studies with several years of related experience.

A demonstrated ability, appreciation and commitment to programming that engages the public. Strong fiscal management and supervisory skills, superior written communication skills and grant writing experience. Excellent time management skills, and the ability to manage multiple tasks. Significant experience working in a team environment and employing aesthetic judgement abilities.

Note: The foregoing is intended to outline the general description of duties and responsibilities for this position. It is not intended nor should it be interpreted as a complete description. The City of Brockville reserves the right to amend this position description at any time provided that such change does not represent a substantive change in the purpose or essential nature of the position.

Statistics Chart

2015 Statistics Brockville Museum

Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
General Admissions	38	56	45	48	108	161	322	407	158	60	34	21	1458
running total		94	139	187	295	456	778	1185	1343	1403	1437	1458	
Incoming Tour Groups					114	47	32	54	99	44			390
running total		0	0	0	114	161	193	247	346	390	390	390	
Youth Programs	92	13	40	39	90	137	142	45	21	12	12	37	680
running total		105	145	184	274	411	553	598	619	631	643	680	
Seniors Programs	108	151	87	230	110	206	126	62	123	158	172	172	1705
running total		259	346	576	686	892	1018	1080	1203	1361	1533	1705	
General Interest Progr	24	272	43	11	20	29	14	4	26	16	7	31	497
running total		296	339	350	370	399	413	417	443	459	466	497	
Workshops	51	45	56	64	55	54	48	47	60	46	62	54	642
running total		96	152	216	271	325	373	420	480	526	588	642	
Community Outreach		48								32			80
running total		48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	80	80	80	
On-Site Events				144	190		156	106	117	95	37		845
running total		0	0	144	334	334	490	596	713	808	845	845	
Off-Site Events						321				37			358
running total		0	0	0	0	321	321	321	321	358	358	358	
Facility Rentals	10	11	49		12	11	46		15	53	39		246
running total		21	70	70	82	93	139	139	154	207	246	246	
TOTALS	323	596	320	536	699	966	886	725	619	553	363	315	6901
Genealogy Visitors	66	57	77	64	86	63	73	92	77	50	62	41	808
running total		123	200	264	350	413	486	578	655	705	767	808	
Research Requests	8	10	10	11	6	6	6	9	11	9	11	4	101
running total		18	28	39	45	51	57	66	77	86	97	101	
Website Visitors	395	636	569	538	569	482	680	696	739	410			5714
running total		1031	1600	2138	2707	3189	3869	4565	5304	5714	5714	5714	
Volunteer Hours	530.25	506.5	503.75	565	542	784.5	535.75	448	418.5	526.25	501.25	260.25	6122
running total		1036.75	1540.5	2105.5	2647.5	3432	3967.75	4415.75	4834.25	5360.5	5861.75	6122	

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 21st, 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 21st.
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.
Tourism Brockville Line installed.
- 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 '20th 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. 40th 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 25th 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 brought 758 people over three weekends.

The first 'Family Day' event was held and was very successful.

The military mural was officially unveiled on May 24th, 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.

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.

Once again the museum educator delivered a very interesting lecture series and annual events such as Flag Day, Doors Open Ontario and the Multicultural Festival were well attended. An outgoing bus trip took place to the Railway Museum in Quebec. The coach was full, it was a beautiful day and requests for further trips such as this were received.

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.

Once again the Brockville Farmers Market held their indoor Christmas Market at the museum during the weekends in November and December.

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 30th Anniversary. A special booklet was designed for distribution to restaurants, hotels/motels, and for the museum visitors. Local merchants with whom the museum has been doing business, placed paid ads in the booklet along with messages from Mayor David Henderson, Senator Robert Runciman, MP Gord Brown and MPP Steve Clark.

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 2nd 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)

St. Lawrence News

MAY 21, 2015

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2ND
SECTION

www.insidebrockville.com

Gramophone inspired Brockville to recognize Moulton's war service

By DOREEN BARNES

On Monday, May 4, the Brockville Museum honoured Robert B. Moulton, a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), 428 Ghost Squadron and formerly of the Brockville Rifles. He is credited with missing a town in Holland, Wilnis, as his crippled Vickers Wellington 727 Bomber went down in 1943, during the Second World War.

A Brockvillian, Moulton was schooled and worked, until he enlisted.

In the Carriage Room, museum Director and Curator Natalie Wood gave a brief introduction to about 60 people in attendance, including a special thank you to the Brockville Fire Department. Each year in Wilnis, by tradition, the fire department is present at the monument during a ceremony, paying tribute to Moulton for sacrificing his life to save theirs.

Wood also extended thanks to the Brockville Dutch Choir and Royal Canadian Air Force Association, 450 (Sabre) Wing for being present.

Two minutes of silence was observed, a poem

read, the choir sang, the significance of a gramophone revealed and the Robert B. Moulton plaque unveiled.

Dr. Jeroen Pinto, born near Wilnis, now living in England, toured the former RCAF airfields and other locations in the United Kingdom to honour fallen Canadian airmen by playing period big band music on his aged gramophone.

The gramophone was brought by the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum's Lancaster bomber from England last fall to the Canadian Antique Phonograph Society (CAPS), whose members escort this music piece to various destinations.

Since fall, the gramophone had been on display in Hamilton at the Warplane Heritage Museum, until May 2, when it became part of the Dutch Liberation Festival.

Blain McCutchen of CAPS brought the gramophone from Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto to Brockville especially for this ceremony.

"Today, we are thrilled to have the gramophone

See GRAMOPHONE page 26



Photo by DOREEN BARNES

Brockville Museum Director and Curator Natalie Wood accepts Dr. Pinto's gramophone from Canadian Antique Phonograph Society member Blain McCutchen for the ceremony of RCAF pilot Robert B. Moulton earlier this month.

Hero to be honoured at museum ceremony

Few are familiar with the story of one of Brockville's own sons, Robert B. Moulton, the Royal Canadian Air Force pilot who is a hero to an entire town in Holland.

Born in Brockville in 1912, Moulton attended Douglas Haig and Victoria Public Schools as well as Brockville Collegiate Institute. He had dreams of becoming a doctor, but he worked at the Brockville Philips Cables plant before enlisting.

On May 4, 1943 while returning to his Yorkshire base, Moulton's Vickers Wellington bomber was hit by enemy gunfire over the Dutch town of Wilnis, 20 km south of Amsterdam. Although two members of his air crew had parachuted to safety, the wounded plane and its remaining crew was still headed straight for the heart of the town. Miraculously, Moulton managed to steer the burning aircraft away from the community and crashed it into a bog in the countryside killing all three airmen instantly, while saving scores of civilians on the ground. These airmen became local heroes and their story adds to the general reverence the Dutch people have for Canada after our forces liberated the Netherlands from the Nazis. In 2006, Moulton's remains, and those of his crew, were exhumed from the crash site and laid to rest in a nearby cemetery.

Almost 70 years later, as his own way of recognizing the efforts of Canadian airmen, Dr. Jeroen Pinto, who was born

near Wilnis, launched the Gramophone Tour project. Accompanied by a 1935 portable gramophone, Pinto has toured former RCAF airfields in the United Kingdom and other sites frequented by Canadian airmen. At each location he plays 1940s big-band music as a way of honouring their memories. "It is such a beautiful moment to use the gramophone to listen to a few minutes of music while paying respect to these airmen," said Pinto.

The gramophone is now touring Canada and it will make a stop at the Brockville Museum on Henry Street on Monday, May 4 as part of a ceremony to honour our Robert Moulton after having made a stop in Toronto as part of the Dutch Liberation Festival. It will then make its way to Ottawa and Winnipeg as part of its continuing Canadian journey. The Brockville Dutch Choir will also perform at the local ceremony, which is set for 1:45 p.m.

At the exact time the ceremony is being conducted in Brockville, a concurrent ceremony will be held in Wilnis, the town that Moulton saved and at the airfield in Yorkshire, England where Moulton's flight originated. It is hoped that a communication link will be established to connect the three communities as their respective ceremonies are taking place. Visit www.brockvillemuseum.com for details.

EMC Apr 29/15

Local News

Summer merriment at the museum

JAKE PITRE

It's a gift to know exactly what you want to do, and it takes commitment to take the steps necessary to get there.

Emily Tobin, programming assistant at Brockville Museum, has known since she was 17 that she wanted to become a teacher, and the opportunity to plan and coordinate the museum's children's programs for the summer seemed too good to be true.

"I just get such a joy out of helping people realize what they're capable of," she said, "and getting to see them conquer something that's challenging is so amazing."

The first program started last week, with the theme of "Fun at the Circus," where kids learned about different jobs at the circus and what it's like to be ringmaster, as well as making promotional posters inspired by an old Brockville circus poster on display at the museum. That program culminated July 9 with

a parade featuring a float made by the children, just as the circus once did by walking down King Street to attract attention when it visited town.

Tobin, a concurrent education student at Queen's University in Kingston, was hired as a summer student at the museum specifically to develop and run the children's programs. She came up with the themes after doing plenty of research.

"I got to know the museum, and looked through all the items and old stories," Tobin said. "And the history of the city. I wanted the programs to have historical relevance, particularly for Brockville."

Tobin, who grew up in Cardinal and Prescott and went to St. Mary's Catholic High School in Brockville, plans to go to teachers' college after university and hopefully end up teaching high school students, but she welcomed the chance to engage with the six- to 11-year-olds at the museum.

"They're at the age where they want to get out and have fun and learn some things," she said. "They're desperate to try new things and that's very exciting."

Plus, she said, "parents get a break."

Tobin had good control over the group on their first day together, with the help of museum educator Amy Mackie and student volunteer Gareth Dawes. In addition to the posters and learning the different roles of the circus, they also baked some concessions.

AJ Ferguson was the jokester of the group, proudly coming to life during the portion of the day spent on pretending to be a clown, including practicing pratfalls.

"A! class clown and master of everything!" Ferguson yelled. "Come one, come all!"

"Welcome to the greatest show on Earth!" Tobin yelled, pretending to be a ringmaster. Samantha Glashan, dressed

in a red and white polka dot dress, was a contrast to AJ's high energy as she shyly told the classic "orange you glad I didn't say banana" joke. The group laughed away.

The second program, running July 21 to 23, is "Hometown Heroes Week," for which local agencies such as the Brockville Fire Department and Brockville Police Service will visit to explore how their agencies have progressed over time.

Then, running August 11 to 13, will be a program allowing children to be "Curator for a Day". They'll have a chance to look behind-the-scenes at the museum, handle artifacts and learn how to craft a story around them, and create an exhibit themselves.

Lastly, August 25 to 27 will be "Soldiers of the Stage," based on research Tobin did at the museum on The Brockettes, a wartime entertainment troupe from Brockville whose last surviving member died last year.



JAKE PITRE PHOTO

Tori Morin, left, and Samantha Glashan try to make some pretzels at the Brockville Museum as part of children's summer programming events at the site.

"They'll learn their performance methods and put on a show of their own. This final program is particularly exciting for Tobin."

"I love theatre and performing," she said, "so that should be a lot of fun."

Tobin says fun is the main thing she hopes the kids come away from the experience with. "I just hope they have fun and

learn a little something about Brockville and about history," she said.

The cost of each three-day program is \$30 per child for museum members and \$35 for non-members, and pre-registration is required. Contact the museum at 613-342-4397 or email amackie@brockville.com to register.

St. Lawrence News - Dec 3, 2015



Raising a Pint to the Brockville Museum

The Brockville Museum paired six unique brews from Beau's All-Natural Brewing Company of Vankleek Hill with tasty appetizers from local restaurants at a museum fundraiser on Friday night. The station hosts and pourers for the evening included, from left, Shirley Avery, Matthew Boland, Doreen Barnes, David Beauchessne (Beau's), Paul Naylor, Amy Mackie and Brian Porter. The brews included Marzen Oktoberfest Lager, Gigantic Brewing La Formidable, Weiss O'Lantern Pumpkin Weiss, ... And Boom Gose the Dynamite and Haters Gonna Hate Kolsch Bock. For the delicious accompaniments, The Barley Mow, The Brockberry Grill, The Georgian Dragon, Nakhon Thai and The Mill provided hors d'oeuvres as people sampled Beau's flavours. While the attendees enjoyed their samplings, The Hoolies played Celtic and folk music.



Brockville Museum Open Drawer project manager Alison Dingledine, left, recatalogues artifacts as volunteer Nancy Van Ulden inputs the information into the new online museum database. The museum's Open Drawer project has been operating now for a year.



The Brockville Recorder and Times edition of May 5, 1958 recounts the robbery of the Brockville Savings & Trust Co. This and several other newspaper reports hang in the former bank, now The Keystorm Pub, on Courthouse Avenue and will be part of the Brockville Museum's Brockville's Criminal Past walking tour.

A long walk in the city's crime shoes

DARCY CHEEK

Charles Luckey is a name few people outside the historically curious would recognize as one infamous to Brockville.

Luckey was the last man hanged in Brockville, following the vicious murder of his family in Newbliss, and the subject of the novel 'This Weather of Hangmen' by Sylvia Adams. Luckey was the last man executed in Brockville, in December 1893.

And, few young people today likely know the city also was the scene of a multi-million dollar bank robbery, one of the largest in Canada, at the Brockville Trust & Savings Co., in May 1958.

The two previous references to crime stories in Brockville are just a small part of a new walking tour hosted by the Brockville Museum in July and August: Brockville's Criminal Past.

The idea was hatched by museum educator Amy Mackie, who researched the stories and wrote scripts for the walking tour's guide, Emily Tobin.

Tobin herself is learning about Brockville's criminal past to get a better feel for the stories she will be delivering, and was only vaguely familiar with one, the Brockville Savings & Trust Co. robbery.

However, she thinks tour guests will be genuinely surprised and impressed with the nine stories the museum has chosen to illustrate the criminal history of the city.

"Brockville has been home to some seedy characters, such as John Simp-

son," she said.

Tobin said Simpson was a notorious thief who targeted Brockville and Prescott in the late 1800s and eventually committed murder trying to hide his crimes.

The nine stories for the tour cover roughly 150 years of Brockville's history and involve a host of different criminal activities.

"I think people will be surprised about the different things that have happened in Brockville over the years, and I think they are really going to enjoy just how much has actually happened," said Tobin.

"Sometimes we think of Brockville as a small, quiet town, but these stories prove that no we can have just as much rumour and excitement as the big city."

The walking tour starts July 3, at the museum, and runs twice every Friday at 4 and 7 p.m., with a duration of 75 minutes to an hour and a half. The tours run until the end of August.

Tickets are \$6 each and can be purchased by visiting the Brockville Museum prior to tour departures at 5 Henry Street, or by calling 613-342-4397.

The tour does contain some graphic details about Brockville crime and the museum does not recommend it for children under 10.

For the older crowd Tobin assures the tour and its stories will be entertaining.

"The stories are fascinating and I'm looking forward to being able to tell them."

ST. L. EMC June 18/18

Walking tour exposes Brockville's criminal past

The mean streets of Brockville have historically harboured some vicious criminals and seen violent crimes.

Visitors will be able to investigate some of these cases this summer during the Brockville Museum's historical downtown walking tour: "Brockville's Criminal Past." The tours will be hosted at 4 and 7 p.m. on Fridays in July and August. The museum warns that some of the stories are graphic, so the tour is not recommended for children under the age of 10.

When the courthouse relocated to Brockville back in the day, it brought with it some amazing stories. Even in the 1800s, courtroom galleries were packed with curious onlookers and detailed trial reports sold newspapers. All this can be expected, but proceedings inside the courthouse were just the beginning.

For those that dare take the tour: you will 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.

Tickets are \$6 each and can be purchased by visiting the Brockville Museum (5 Henry St. at the corner of Water Street just west of Hardy Park) prior to tour departures or by calling 613-342-4397.

For more information about the Brockville Museum, please email museum@brockville.com or visit www.brockvillemuseum.com.

THE WEEK
AHEAD

SUNDAY

The Ottawa Gatineau International Auto Show ends today, with more than 300 unique vehicles and several chances to win, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Shaw Centre. Tickets: \$17. autoshowottawa.com

Genticorum plays foot-stomping, fiddle-rocking traditional Québécois music, 7:30 p.m., Rosemount Community Hall. Tickets: \$25. www.ottawacnra.ca

MONDAY

Mozart's comedic opera The Marriage of Figaro, this time set in Edwardian England is on at 8 p.m., National Arts Centre. Tickets: from \$25. Also on Wednesday and Saturday. nac-cna.ca/opera/alyra.ca

The Great Escape gets a Canadian twist as author Ted Barris discusses his book and new findings about the daring efforts at a German POW camp in 1944, 7 p.m., Christ Church Cathedral. Tickets: \$15. writersfestival.org

Break into philately at this introduction to stamp collecting and postal history, 7 p.m., Hazeldean branch, Ottawa Public Library, 50 Castlefrank Rd. Free. Register at bibliot-tawalibrary.ca

TUESDAY

Poetry festival VerseFest opens with readings from spoken-word poet Ikenna Onyegbula, award-winner Daphne Marlatt and songwriter Mehdi Hamdad, 7 p.m., Knox Church. Tickets at versefest.ca

Goodbye Piccadilly, opening at the OLT, is about family secrets and the effects of war after a woman's husband is discovered dead in England — when he should be in Algonquin Park, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$12 to 25. ottawalittletheatre.com

FIVE WORTH THE DRIVE

Brockville celebrates its automotive heritage

It might not be until summer that Brockville takes full advantage of its setting by the St. Lawrence River, but *Peter Johansen* finds plenty to make a March visit worthwhile.



BROCKVILLE MUSEUM

Daily life in Ontario's first incorporated municipality is showcased in this charming museum along the banks of the St. Lawrence. That location is appropriate: the waterway helped propel a robust industrial past. For example, Brockville was an early automotive capital and the museum displays two cars, the Brock and the Atlas, manufac-

tured there in the 1910s. The Atlas, boasting a full 30 horsepower, was available only in "Brewster green," eliminating nasty squabbles about colour choice. Other locally made goods include sports fishing skiffs; foundry goods, ranging from meat grinders to door bells, which won medals in competitions as far as Australia; and stetson hats (snap souvenirs

of yourself donning some of them in an on-site photo booth). Kids can dress up in United Empire Loyalist clothing.

Details: 5 Henry St. Open weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: adults, \$4.50; children, \$2.50.

For something more: Visit Fulford Place (287 King St.

E.), a national historic site that reopens for the season on April 11. The ostentatious 20,000-square-foot mansion shows the cosseted life of a patent-medicine king who once lived there, entertaining royals and prime ministers alike.

brockvillemuseum.com
heritagetrust.on.ca

Local News

Museum aiming for a 'cross-section'

ALANAH DUFFY

Six new "People of Brockville" panels were unveiled at the Brockville Museum Saturday as the Friends of the Brockville Museum held its annual general meeting.

Displaying information plaques about notable Brockvillians is a new initiative by the museum. The panels are sponsored by a member of the public for the cost of \$200.

"It gives us great pleasure to unveil these panels and showcase these fascinating historical figures and vivacious, ordinary people," said Natalie Wood, the curator of the museum.

Honoured with the new panels are Con Darling, who was sponsored by Bill Tooker. Darling was a local clown known as Brockville's ambassador. He is also memorialized with a statue on Blockhouse Island.

Agnes Lor, who opened iconic restaurant New York Café in Brockville in the 1930s, was also honoured. Lor was the daughter of Chinese immigrants and she and

her husband ran the restaurant for many years and was also heavily involved in the community. Her panel was sponsored by Jean Ouellet and Viktor Kaczowski.

Longtime Recorder and Times reporter Betty MacDowell received a panel from the museum, sponsored by Doreen Barnes. MacDowell, born in 1922, was one of the first women to join the paper and was on staff for decades before retiring in 1987.

The Buffett family, represented Saturday by Don, Geoff and Andrew Buffett, sponsored a panel on Ogle Gowan, an Irish immigrant who was a prominent political figure in Leeds County during the 1890s.

Senator George Fulford was also honoured in a panel sponsored by Andy Wheeler and Denise Ethier. Fulford owned a successful patent medicine company and was appointed a senator in 1900.

The sixth and final panel unveiled Saturday was one for Major James Walsh, who was integral in the western expansion of the Royal Cana-

dian Mounted Police. Walsh, from Brockville, was in charge of recruitment from Ontario.

"This is a western story about an eastern man," said Brian Porter, who sponsored Walsh's panel.

The Brockville Museum is currently looking for more sponsors for another list of six panels, to be unveiled in six months.

Wood said she would like the next batch of panels to include Brockville's founding families, the Jones and the Buells; the Sherwood family; the Sherwood family's black slave, Caesar Congo, who was later freed and worked at a local hotel; police chief Wilmot Young; local artist R.H. Lindsay; and, fictional character Sally Grant.

"We're trying to focus on a cross-section of historical figures and every day people who were noteworthy in both their professional and per-



ALANAH DUFFY PHOTO

Sponsors of the Brockville Museum's "People of Brockville" series pose at the Friends of the Brockville Museum annual general meeting recently. From left is Viktor Kaczowski, Jean Ouellet, Geoff Buffett, Don Buffett and Andrew Buffett. Sitting in the front are Doreen Barnes and Brian Porter.

sonal lives, and who contributed significantly to our community," said Wood.

The unveiling of the panels was followed by the Friends of the Brockville Museum annual general meeting, where an overview of the past year was given to members.

Co-chair Doug Smith said the group's most noteworthy project from the last year was its participation in the museum's Open Drawer project, which saw the museum digitize its archives and put more information online.

The Friends of the Brockville Museum donated more than \$20,000 towards the project.

As well, Brian Porter, who also sits on the museum's board of management, noted it has been almost two years since longtime curator Bonnie Burke retired from the

museum.

"It's been a time of transition as Natalie settled into her role, and there's been new energy, new initiatives and new exhibits, new displays and new technology," said Porter.

alanah.duffy@summedia.ca

British Home Child story to be shared at museum

The Brockville Museum will be hosting a day of British Home Child Day festivities on Saturday, Sept. 26. Held in collaboration with the Leeds and Grenville Genealogical Society and the Ontario East British Home Child Family, the public is welcome to join organizers for a variety of informative activities.

Whether someone is newly-curious about the Home Child story or is already a dedicated researcher, the museum on Henry Street just west of Hardy Park will open at 9 a.m. to start a day of talks, "open mic" discussion groups, a "marketplace of ideas," as well as a variety of experts on hand to talk to, compare notes or discuss research strategies. Visitors will also be able to speak with interpreters at other locations around Brockville.

While the story of the British Home Child is a largely forgotten part of Canada's history, one of every ten Ontarians can trace his or her ancestry to a "Home Child." Between 1869 and

1948, more than 100,000 children were sent to Canada from the United Kingdom and Ireland. These children were relocated to communities throughout Canada, often working as indentured farm labourers and domestic servants. Some never recovered from the trauma of this upheaval and many did not share their stories with anyone – even close family members. But there are happier tales, as well.

Formal recognition of this significant chapter in Canada's history came in 2011 when, thanks to the efforts of former MPP Jim Brownell, the Province of Ontario designated Sept. 28 as British Home Child Day.

Admission to this all-day event will be by donation, and pre-registration is not required. Anyone who would like to have a table at the "marketplace of ideas" can contact Gloria Tubman at oebhcf@gmail.com. For more information about this year's Home Child Day, visit www.brockvillemuseum.com.

■ **COMMUNITY:** Friends of Brockville Museum open garden tour

Public glimpses into private gardens

DARCY CHEEK
The Recorder and Times

The Friends of the Brockville Museum have recreated an event that will allow the general public to see what only family, friends and neighbours usually get to enjoy.

The 'Friends' have put together a fundraising venture to explore some unique horticulture creations in the Hidden Gardens of Brockville tour next weekend.

"I've been gardening all my life," said museum 'Friend' Doug Smith, standing in the expansive inner city backyard of his Pearl Street home. "I noticed that Brockville hadn't had one in quite some time, so I finally persuaded the 'Friends' board that it was probably a project we should take on."

Smith said he had to do a little "arm twisting" to get the fundraiser going but the more people that came on board the better the event started to come together.

"Talking about the idea to people, they would say 'I know a garden that is really impressive' and they would give the name of a person and I would call around and eventually I got eight gardens signed up."

Smith said the eight gardens, his and five others in Brockville and two at Maitland, are not ones the public would generally see, with the exception perhaps of Colleen O'Connell and Dave Cybulski's Garden of Hope in Maitland.

You might get just a piece of the view but not see what lies behind the front, much like Smith's property, which he says is one of the bigger ones in the inner city.

Having eight gardens on a single tour might not sound like a monumental task, but having the Hidden Gardens of Brockville over two days, June 27 and 28, is an undertaking.

"I wouldn't want any more," he said of the number of gardens on the tour. "Arranging volunteers to



DARCY CHEEK/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

Doug Smith sits in his Pearl Street West backyard on Thursday, one of eight sites on the Brockville Museum's Hidden Gardens tour in Brockville and Maitland.

staff eight gardens on two hour shifts, over two days, is a big process."

Volunteers, and not all Friends of the Brockville Museum, have come forward to help with the tour and Smith said people really "stepped up" to help. There also are people from out of the city coming to assist. The museum also received support from the Brockville and District Horticultural Society.

The tour will give people a broad view of what kinds of gardens, and their plants, the area can support.

"They vary tremendously," said Smith. "The one thing I was looking for when laying the tour out was that we have people with a very small garden to people that have a huge garden. So if people are out looking for ideas about what to do in their own garden situation there pretty much is something that will fit the bill for their own property."

Some of that variety will include gardens that are in full sun, like Smith's property, to others that are much in the shade.

Some of that advice will be

offered by master gardener Mary Ann Van Barlow, who has the other Maitland property on the tour on County Road 2. Van Barlow is the president of the Brockville and District Horticultural Society.

"Some of our gardens, we have things in them that even we have forgotten what we planted or they came with the property and we have no idea what it is. As we've said in the brochure, take a picture of things no one can identify and go down to Mary Ann's and she's volunteered very kindly to try and identify the plants."

TICKET INFO

Tickets for the tour are \$10 and can be purchased at the Brockville Museum.

The tour runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday June 27th, and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Other gardens on the tour include the properties of Ed and Brenda Coon, Darlene Carr, Dr. Gerry Ashe and Dave and Linda Cavanagh.



L-R: Nattanya Hewitt, Eithne (host for the evening) & Tony Dunbar and the Museum's Amy Whitehorne Mackie; Doris and Natalie frame one of the Yeats panels

WILDE ABOUT YEATS

By Russ Disotell

No, that's not a spelling error in the title, it's meant to be Wilde with an "e", as in Oscar Wilde. This is a story about the importance of dialogue, community building, convoluted paths, and, oh yes, how an Oscar Wilde project morphed into a celebration of WB Yeats. In the interest of full disclosure, I was involved in this enterprise.

Last December at a lecture sponsored by the Brockville Irish Cultural Society a discussion took place about promoting the idea of an Oscar Wilde Theatre Festival for Brockville. There is a connection between the celebrated Irish playwright and Brockville. In a nutshell, the connection is that Frances Richards, a Brockville native, and talented portrait artist, painted Wilde's portrait in 1887. The sitting inspired Wilde to write *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Wilde's only novel. As a result of the talk it was decided to meet in the New Year and commence the promotion.

By the time of this first meeting, the group consisted of members of the executive of the Brockville Irish Cultural Society and several unaffiliated members of the public. One suggestion put forward was that since Wilde was Irish, the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa should be approached for their assistance. An immediate response to the suggestion was, "What do we want from them?" Good question! A let's wait and see attitude was adopted. You don't know what

you want until you see what they have. Here comes the first turn in the road.

Elizabeth Keogh, Second Secretary of the Embassy, became our contact person, and eventually our leading benefactor. The Embassy was very interested in assisting wherever possible and they did have four travelling government literary exhibits, but unfortunately Wilde wasn't one of them. Would there be interest in looking at them anyway? Of course! She mentioned that the WB Yeats exhibit might be very timely as 2015 was the 150th anniversary of his birth and was being celebrated as the year of Yeats. For those unfamiliar with Yeats, he is considered one of the leading literary figures of the 20th century, won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1923, and is a beloved poet worldwide and in particular to the Irish.

It was decided to accept the offer of the Yeats exhibit, thus encountering the second turn in the road. The problem was finding a venue. Or rather, as it was quaintly put by one of the group, "We don't have a Museum, but I know where we can find one!" Enter the Brockville Museum. Curator Natalie Wood was approached and indeed they would be happy to host the exhibit and just happened to have space for the month of August. It would be a reflection, and celebration of the rich Irish heritage of the area.

The Brockville Museum was one of a select number of stops for the exhibition in this

Year of Yeats; as such it was a coup for them. The Yeats exhibition was curated in 2011 by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, using material from the Yeats exhibition featured in the National Library in Dublin. The exhibition consists of 13 panels telling the story of Yeats' life and work.

The exhibit was previewed on July 29th with a program blending readings, music, an exploration of Yeats' life and works. Brockville Councillor Phil Deery, the city's representative on the Museum's Board of Directors, spoke about being the son of Irish immigrants and growing up reading Yeats' collection of fairy tales. He also commented how wonderful it was to hear Gaelic again, as it was used as part of his wedding ceremony.

On August 18th a Read Your Favourite Yeats event was held in the afternoon. It served as an opportunity for the public to share their love of Yeats, read their favourite Yeats poem or just enjoy the recitations of others. Once again, there was a blend of readings, commentary and music, as some of the area's wealth of talented Celtic musicians showed up to add to the festive atmosphere.

So now where to for the Wilde/Yeats committee? Expect more on the Wilde Theatre Festival idea, but between here and there, be prepared for a twist or two, as they remain committed to taking full advantage of every opportunity that comes their way.

LH

It's a Pink Pills party

Brockville Museum marks infamous snake-oil scheme's anniversary at event

RONALD ZAJAC
THE RECORDER AND TIMES

No one knew what was in them, or how exactly they worked, but Pink Pills for Pale People, that era's improvement on snake oil, made George T. Fulford a multimillionaire.

On Wednesday, a small group of people gathered at the Brockville Museum, if not to celebrate this achievement, then at least to have fun with it. The museum marked the 125th anniversary of the infamous panacea with a \$65-a-plate fundraiser that drew about 20 people.

They were treated to an unorthodox history lesson, with museum educator Amy Mackie's historical narration punctuated by little "testimonials" to the pills' success, the latter introduced by museum curator Natalie Wood in a pink period dress – and on rollerskates.

Mackie attributed at least some of the snake oil scheme's success to its name.

"Once you hear Pink Pills for Pale People, first you will laugh; second you will think: 'Hey I wonder what that is?'; and third, it will never get out of your head, ever again," said Mackie.

George Taylor Fulford, born in Brockville on August 8, 1852, completed his schooling here, then enrolled in a business course in Belleville.

He worked as an apprentice in his older brother's drugstore, taking charge of the pharmacy in 1874 and eventually opening his own patent medicine firm, G.T. Fulford and Company, in 1887.

He came across a pill prescribed by a local physician, William Jackson. In 1890, Fulford bought the



RONALD ZAJAC/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

Brockville Museum summer intern Emily Tobin portrays Dora Frasier, one of the many people who gave "testimonials" to the powers of Pink Pills for Pale People, during an event at the museum on Wednesday night.

rights to Jackson's medicine with that unforgettable name.

"It certainly was something that Mr. Fulford, with his course in American-style business, could really take to the next degree," said Mackie.

Under Fulford, the Pink Pills empire would span the globe.

Originally purported to cure "female anemia," these iron pills became, a cure for "absolutely everything," said Mackie.

Backed up by testimonials of dubious origin, the pills also spread through advertisements claiming it could cure such things as "locomotor ataxy," St. Vitus's Dance, "loss of vital forces," neuralgia and

"change of life."

Other ads proclaimed the product to be "a blood builder and nerve restorer."

After Fulford's death in 1905 (he is considered the first Canadian victim of a fatal car accident), the pill business went to his Schenectady, N.Y., business partner, William T. Hanson, and eventually to his son, George Fulford II, in 1929.

By then, the Pink Pills were on the wane, with the Fulford company expanding into Baby's Own and other products.

After the two world wars, said Mackie, patent medicines lost their allure, in particular as regulations tightened.

And what was in those pills?

No definitive answer is available, said Mackie, adding the ingredients changed from year to year and place to place. When the business expanded to Asia, there were rumours of opium, vigorously denied by the Fulfords.

Some of the ingredients she listed were "commercial green copperas," "bicarbonate of potash" and "commercial arsenic."

The small crowd was treated to a much more palatable – and far more restorative – dinner, courtesy of the Brockberry Cafe.

Wood said there was no specific fundraising target for the event.

@RipNTearRon on Twitter

■ **INTERVIEW:** Viktor Kaczowski has been working with the Brockville Museum for the past six years



DARCY CHEEK/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

Viktor Kaczowski, the community engagement officer at the Brockville Museum, speaks about the importance of seeing life as history.

History all about interest in life

As the Brockville Museum's community engagement officer, Viktor Kaczowski is responsible for volunteer recruitment and setting up community events. Kaczowski began volunteering seven years ago and transitioned into his current role six years ago.

In this week's Q&A feature, he talks about the museum's role in the community and why history is about life, instead of dates and facts.

Q: How do you see the museum's role in the community?

A: A museum is about engaging people one way or another and recognizing that everyone has different backgrounds and different interests and trying to be as comprehensive as possible in catering to those interests. That's sometimes a challenge, because we see the world through our own eyes and our own experiences, and sometimes you do have to put yourself in someone else's shoes and ask what they might be interested in seeing.

One of the things I'd like to see is us talking about the history of the north end. People forget that the north end is now 50 years old and most of the people who live there don't have any sense of what it was like when it was first developed. It was out in the country.

That's something I do try to get there with people: history is what happened two minutes ago. It doesn't have to be 100 or 200 years ago. It's what happened yesterday or what happened last year. The hardest thing to get people to recognize is that the things that you and I take for granted are things that the younger generation still have no knowledge of. I grew up in the 70s and the kids who come here from high school to volunteer have no concept of what life was like then. That's why getting the message out is important, and Brockville's full of really amazing stories.

Q: What are some of the most interesting stories you've come across since you've been here?

A: That's a really hard ques-



ALANAH DUFFY

Q&A

passions; one is for the river and one is for industry. The whole waterfront, what was here, what it looked like 50 years ago, what it looked like 100 years ago when you had ships stopping here and you had the rail line and oil tanks and the transformation that's occurred over the years. I love comparing old pictures to current pictures and saying, 'This is what it looked like.' I find that really fascinating.

Q: Have you stumbled upon any surprising facts about Brockville during your tenure at the museum?

A: This probably sounds really minuscule, but one of my favourite things about Brockville is the fact that the New York Café (Restaurant) has been around for 80 years now. That's pretty neat to have a Chinese restaurant in Brockville that's been in the same place – different owners – but the same place all that time. You walk by and see the sign in the front and it just harks back to a time so different from ours and you start thinking about what it was like for those Asian individuals to move to a place like Brockville and create a business for themselves and how difficult it must have been to integrate.

Because Brockville isn't as ethnically diverse as Toronto, all those many years ago, you have to wonder what it was like.

Q: The museum is starting to digitize its collections through the Open Drawer project. How is that project going?

A: We've made great progress on this project. It's going really well, but we have so much material in our collection and it's going to take some time. We're encouraging people to go onto the website and be able to look at what we have. It's very user-friendly and you can do searches based on family name.



A museum is about engaging people one way or another and recognizing that everyone has different backgrounds and different interests and trying to be as comprehensive as possible in catering to those interests."

Viktor Kaczowski, community engagement officer at the Brockville Museum

tion and we actually get more of our images up online. People can start looking and see what things were like.

History's not about facts or years, it's about life. Everyone's life is different and everyone has a story to tell. Every photograph has a story to tell. That's really the background message about all this.

Again, it goes back to the New York Café and thinking about what life was like, even during World War II. I was just thinking about that this morning, because there's been so much emphasis on World War I and World War II recently and talking about soldiers going overseas. What was it like for that housewife in Brockville who had two or three children? Her husband was off overseas, chances are, her brothers, cousins, friends were there. How did that individual make sure that her children were provided for and that their lives here were kept going? That's a story that also needs to be told. And that's just one example; there's all kinds of stories.

This whole idea that you have to have an interest in history to go to museums – you don't have to have an interest in history. You have to have an interest in life. That's really what it comes down to.

South Grenville chamber celebrates its best

PAGE A2

THE RECORDER & TIMES

SERVING BROCKVILLE AND THE REGION SINCE 1821

POSTMEDIA • Year 195 No. 221 16 pages

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015

Victory parades abound! Arena still option for downtown

Exhibit at city museum explores how holidays were marked during dark days of WW2

NICK GARDINER
THE RECORDER AND TIMES

"The kids get it."

A new exhibit at the Brockville Museum just in time for Remembrance Day raises the poignant question, 'How can you celebrate when the world is at war?'

A class of elementary students that previewed an exhibit exploring the area's holiday celebrations during the Second World War were quick to grasp the implications, said the museum's program coordinator Amy Mackie.

"It's good to have a big question but it's hard to find an answer," she said during a tour of an exhibit, open weekdays from 10 to 5 p.m. with free admission to city residents on Fridays.

The one-room display features personal letters and belongings, copies of *Blitz* magazine published for Brockville's Officers' Training Centre and a film of troops boarding a train to leave the city.

Mackie said many fathers and siblings were away from home in the war effort and rationing forced a general belt-tightening among a public absorbed with thoughts of their loved ones overseas and selling victory bonds to support the war effort.

Celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve was something of an afterthought.

"There may not be a Santa parade but there were victory parades twice a month," she said.

Canada's war-bond total during the war reached \$12.5 billion, or \$550 for every resident and covered almost half the total cost of the country's war effort, said Mackie.



Amy Mackie of the Brockville Museum shows a case full of replicated items visitors to the 'Holidays Back Home: Brockville & World War II' exhibit can examine in Brockville.

A pupil's savings pass-book on display showed local students chipped in with regular penny do-

cases limited means, she said.

And the City of Brockville did its part, including the ultimate

October 1942 when a mock Nazi invasion was staged to scare up funds.

RONALD ZAJAC
THE RECORDER AND TIMES

City hall is not ruling out a twin-pad arena in the downtown area—at least for now.

Brockville council on Tuesday approved a motion stating that the Memorial Centre lands "in addition to location(s) in downtown Brockville be considered for the new ice pad," the latter an addition that follows an appeal from downtown rink supporters.

The motion also calls for "preliminary reports" showing "approximate costs, benefits and challenges on each site." It also states a walking track will be part of the design.

Council's economic development and planning committee a week earlier recommended two specific downtown sites for consideration: The Leon's location on King Street West and the former Phillips Cables area just west of town. The ad hoc committee looking into arena options may consider other sites as well.

The initially proposed motion would have restricted that list to the Memorial Centre.

City officials must decide on how to replace the aging Centennial Youth Arena. The prevailing opinion so far has been in favour of a twin-pad arena. The ad hoc committee looking into the matter recently concluded building on the current Memorial Centre site is the most cost-effective and realistic option.

A letter from the Downtown Brockville Business Improvement Area (DBIA) was part of the correspondence accompanying the dis-



Jason Baker

2015 Monitor Newsletters



Happy New Year!

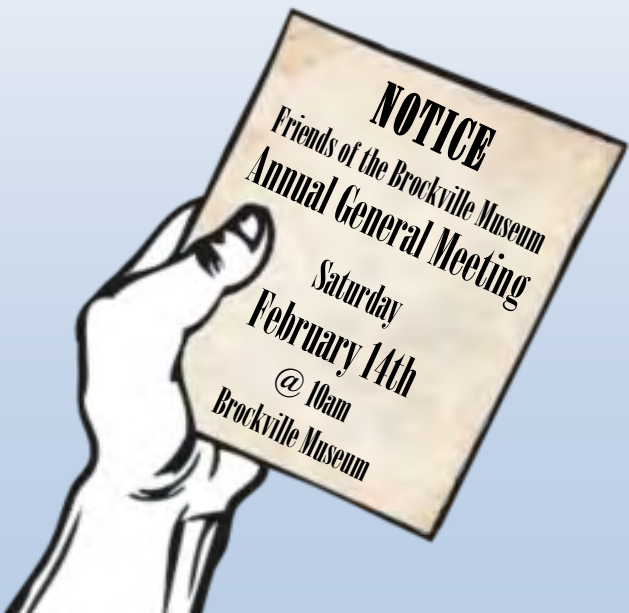
2014 was a spectacular year for the Brockville Museum. Thanks to a tremendous amount of support from the Friends of the Brockville Museum and a huge army of volunteers, a great deal of progress was made. Perhaps the greatest achievement is the Open Drawer Project. After years of fundraising and planning the project really got underway this year. We are pleased to announce that all of the museum's three-dimensional artifacts have now been entered into our electronic database! It was a very Merry Christmas indeed! In the new year, volunteers

will be trained on handling and cataloguing our archival documents. In the meantime, the online version of the database is up and running... there may still be a few typos and we don't have pictures for everything yet, but the information is out there now! If you'd like to sneak a peek (and "open a drawer" so to speak), visit our website and follow the link under "Collections". A huge thank you goes out to the Friends, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the many volunteers who made this project possible.

Submitted by N.W.

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Introductions may be in order... here's some stuff you may not have known about your museum staff



L-r: Amy Mackie, Viktor Kaczkowski, Alison Dingledine and Natalie Wood.

The Brockville Museum has a dynamic team of four: Natalie Wood (Director/Curator) and Amy Mackie (Interpretation and Public Program Coordinator), who are both full-time, and Viktor Kaczkowski (Community Engagement Officer) and Alison Dingledine (Museum Administrative and Collections Assistant), who are both part-time. All of us are 100% committed to what the museum does and the role it plays in our community. We all share a love of history and the world around us and are passionate about sharing Brockville's fascinating past with others.

Natalie has been with the Brockville Museum since early 2013. Before that, she spent five years learning more about flour and wheat than anyone should know in a lifetime while managing the Old Stone Mill National Historic Site in Delta. Her previous museum experience also includes the McLachlan Woodworking Museum, the Pump House Steam Museum and the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes in Kingston. Natalie was inspired to pursue a museum career after she attended a National Heritage Fair in sixth grade, representing her class project in New Brunswick. She later obtained a degree in History and a Certificate in Museum Studies. At the Brockville Museum she

is ultimately responsible for the overall operation and administration of the museum and liaises with the museum's Board of Management, City Hall, and Friends of the Brockville Museum. She loves that every day at a community museum offers something different. Natalie spends her free time volunteering with the Ontario Trillium Foundation, travelling, and hiking. She recently moved to Brockville and adopted a black lab puppy which is keeping her plenty busy.

Amy unknowingly began her museum training at age nine as a costumed volunteer at Fort Wellington in Prescott. From there, volunteer positions at Upper Canada Village, Homewood Museum and the Forwarder's Museum filled her summers and piqued her interest in history. She spent 11 years at Charleston Lake Provincial Park as a member of the Natural Heritage Education staff. She remains a contributing naturalist for Ontario Parks' many province-wide monitoring programs and continues to have a great love for natural history. A graduate of Queen's University she specializes in Canadian Military History, especially the First World War and has extensively toured battlefields in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. She has been with the Brockville Museum for 7 years. Her ability to share Brockville's story with depth and passion makes her a sought-after public speaker and she conducts museum programs both on- and off-site to a wide variety of age groups. She and her husband live in an 1830s farmhouse near New Dublin and her love of nature and the outdoors are well reflected in her interests, whether it be curling, making and selling preserves and other garden products, or tending to her bees and quails.

Viktor's career path has taken him full circle. Although having completed a graduate degree

in geography, much of his professional life was spent at the parliaments of Ontario and Saskatchewan as a Legislative Clerk. Now in a new phase of his life, he draws upon the knowledge and experience from his time as a summer historical interpreter at Ste. Marie-among-the-Hurons in Midland, Ontario where he grew up. His role as community engagement officer at the Brockville Museum, which he has held since 2009, includes volunteer coordination, media relations, public outreach, website maintenance, event planning, and fundraising support. Viktor has a strong attachment to the St. Lawrence River having lived in Iroquois upon arriving from England as a child and it was the river that resulted in his choice of Brockville as the place he wanted to live. He therefore comes by his fascination with ships and the Seaway honestly. He is also an avid aviation historian and photographer, has a stained glass studio in his basement, enjoys cooking (and consuming the results), and any excuse to get on a plane and travel!

Alison joined the team earlier this year. Harking from Burlington, she has degrees in history and Museum Management and Curatorship. Her expertise managing and handling artefacts and collections while at the City of Hamilton's cultural department and the Museum of Health Care in Kingston has proven to be invaluable. She is tenacious and committed and has shown herself to be generous in sharing her knowledge with museum staff and volunteers. Not only does she handle the day-to-day registration of artefacts and management of the museum's collection, she has led our "Open Drawer" project by which we are converting all of our paper records to electronic records. She also takes care of the museum's payroll, money and accounts, and other administrative duties. In her spare time she likes to go to the family cottage near Lake of Bays in Muskoka. She is also an avid reader, and is currently training to run her first 5K in April of 2015. She also considers herself a wine connoisseur!

Submitted by V.K.



Museum staff and supporters had a ball playing cheesy games like "Cheese Chucking" (using Babybels of course) at our Cheese Ball on November 14th at the Brockville Legion. Pictured here l-r: Brian Porter, Viktor Kaczkowski, Nancy Van Ulden and Karl Knight.

The Museum: a great place to do a High School Co-Op Placement



Meet Jordan, Matt and Wyatt, three local high school students who have been working at the museum since September completing a co-op placement. The three have been working on the Open Drawer Project, cataloguing objects as well as taking photographs and inventorying the collection. They have been a huge asset to the museum over the past four months and we will really miss them when they finish their placement in January.

From the Photographic Archive: King Street & Victoria Hall

The Brockville Museum has nearly 29,000 photographs in its archival collection. These images are used by researchers and the museum to interpret and understand the past. Volunteers at the Brockville Museum have been working to digitize and preserve these photographs. Thanks to our Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, the Brockville Museum will be able to make these photographs more accessible to the public in the coming years.

In order to highlight the museum's photographic collection, we recently introduced a new segment to our newsletters featuring photographs from the archives. In this issue, we take a look at King Street and Victoria Hall. We hope you will enjoy!



Victoria Hall (Brockville's Town Hall) was erected during the years 1862-64. The building contract was awarded on September 15, 1862 to John Steacy, Jr. (and David S. Booth, his partner) while William Fitzsimmons, the mayor and an experienced builder himself, was appointed to oversee the construction. H. H. Horsey had originally estimated the total cost of the new building to be \$26,000.00 but costs may have eventually exceeded that. Work began in the fall of 1862 and continued through 1863 and into 1864 as the workmen tried to complete the final details.

Submitted by N.W.

“Deaccessioning” is not a Dirty Word

The Open Drawer Project has allowed the Brockville Museum the unique opportunity to view our collection on an item by item basis, making this an excellent time to determine where there may be duplicates and gaps in our collection. Our goal is to develop a collection that is comprehensive, covers all eras, and represents all facets of life in Brockville.

To accomplish this, we have to assess our current holdings and weed out those things that do not fit our mandate, are damaged or deteriorating and are otherwise unmanageable. This is a formal process undertaken by all museums known as *deaccessioning*. The definition of deaccessioning is “the process of permanently removing an object or objects from a museum’s collection.” We are carrying out this process in an appropriate manner and with thoughtful consideration.

Grounds for an object to be considered for deaccession include:

- The collecting focus of the museum has been refined or altered
- Multiple examples of the object already exist in the collection
- The object has been damaged or is deteriorating
- The object can no longer be suitably stored
- The object would be more relevant at another public institution
- The object is deemed to be a reproduction

As a museum, we are committed to an open and transparent process. Once the Collection Committee has approved an object for deaccession, it will first be offered as a gift, transfer, or exchange to another museum or public collection. According to museum best practices and standards, if no public institution is able to take the object, it may then be offered for sale through a publicly advertised auction with the funds obtained from the sale allocated

to enhancing the museum’s collection and care. Any objects that we find are damaged beyond repair or which present safety and health risks will be disposed of in a proper fashion.

We believe that it is important that you understand the museum is not selling or giving away donated objects unethically or without careful consideration. We acknowledge that our collection represents a public trust, and that objects are accepted into our collection with the presumption of permanence. That being said, deaccessioning is an integral part of responsible collections management, a process carried out by museums around the world, both large and small. Ultimately this process will strengthen the value of our collection and enhance our ability to share our stories.

Submitted by A.D.



Alison is pictured here cataloguing and numbering artifacts from St. Alban’s School for Boys which had been on display in Beecher House.

Lecture Series Returns!

One of our most popular programs will be returning on February 3, 2015: our Annual Winter Lecture Series. This year, we will be seeing some returning speakers as well as welcoming some new faces.

All the lectures begin at 10:00 am and finish at 12:00 noon. They are held all four Tuesdays in February and the first Tuesday in March. The cost for the series remains unchanged from last year. Each lecture is \$8, or \$35 for the series.

I don't want to give too much away, but the series will begin with Brian Porter and a look at the 200th anniversary of his alter ego, Sir John A. Macdonald. Our next lecturer, Richard Brisson, will explore the WWII cryptology and cryptanalysis of the German Enigma machine. The announcements of the other speakers will be published in the coming weeks.

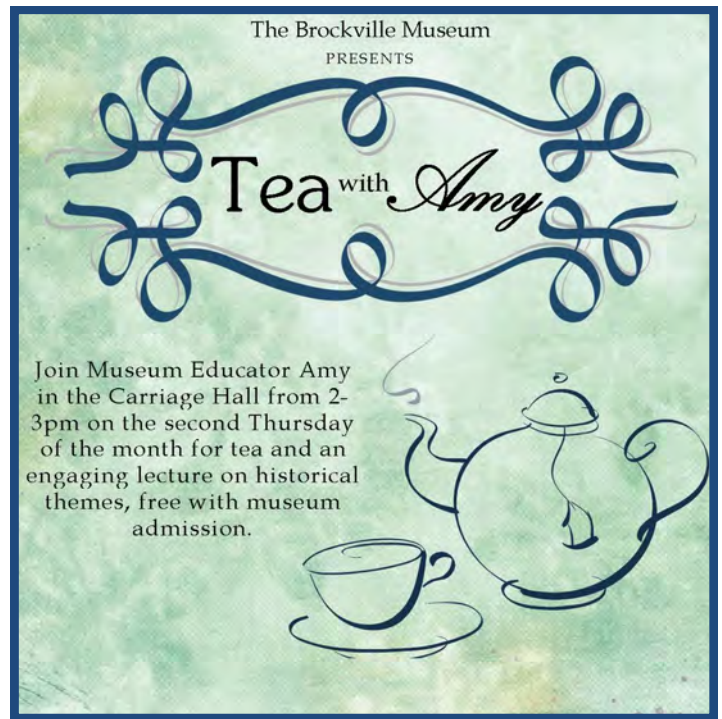
We are taking bookings for the Lecture Series now. Simply call or drop by the museum to reserve your seat. With this being a popular event, it is not unheard of for the hall to sell out. Much of that is likely due to the cookies provided by our volunteers!

Submitted by A.M.

Friends Receive Ross McNeil Foundation Grant

The Friends of the Brockville Museum recently received a grant from the Ross McNeil Foundation to help encourage more local schools to visit the museum, specifically to see the new Col. Curry exhibit and take part in the museum's *Poppies, Poems and Special Effects* program which looks at the story of three Brockville Soldiers from the First World War using primary documents. The \$1000 grant will help cover program and transportation costs for classes on a first come, first served basis. If you have a class that would like to participate, please contact Amy.

Submitted by N.W.



Legends & Lore Bus Tour



On October 4th, Museum Educator, Amy Mackie took patrons on a journey through the mysterious past of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. The bus tour featured stops at the Blue Church, Battle of the Windmill, Spencerville Mill, Limerick Forest, Charleston Lake and LaRue Mills Cemetery (pictured here). Amy's captivating stories distracted everyone from the rain and our bus driver Bob made sure that we all stayed warm. Thank you to all who joined us for our country drive.



Amy shares stories about local dance halls at a recent Tea with Amy.

What is Tea With Amy?

In July of 2014, we introduced a new program for museum visitors. Tea With Amy is a chance to gather in the Carriage Hall for a presentation and a cup of tea, of course!

Each Tea With Amy centres around a theme and includes a 30-45 minute presentation on the topic. However, this is NOT a lecture. Throughout the session many stories are shared and questions are asked. As you may have guessed, the presenter is our own Interpretation & Public Program Coordinator: Amy Mackie.

A few months ago, we had a great discussion about the former dance halls in Brockville; another day, we looked into the lives of local soldiers during the Great War. The topics change, but the price is the same: free with museum admission. Remember, as a museum member, your admission is always FREE.

Held on the second Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm, the topic for January 8th will be 'The River in Winter.' This will give us a chance to look at how our use of the river changes in the wintertime and how this could be a dangerous thing - depending on our relationship with

our American neighbours at the time.

Please note: due to the Winter Lecture Series, there will be no Tea With Amy in February and March. However, it will be returning on April 9th.

Mark your calendars for the second Thursday of the month at 2pm and join us for a cup of tea and a chance to share some fascinating stories from Brockville's past:

January 8th	June 11th	September 10th
April 9th	July 9th	October 8th
May 14th	August 13	November 12th

Submitted by A.M.

Ironing in Archives?



Alison and Natalie are pictured here ironing a product called Marvelseal on the plywood wall in the expanded archives room. Off-gassing from wood products can damage archival documents, so before any documents were moved into the new room a heat-sealed, archival-quality product called Marvelseal was applied to the wall. Oh! The many tasks of a curator.

Spotlight on Volunteers



Ninety-year-old Doris Stewart all dolled up for the Brockville Museum's 1920s Murder Mystery Dinner.

Pillar of the museum, Doris Stewart, will celebrate her 20th anniversary as a volunteer in 2015. Diligent, punctual, and dependable she is this volunteer coordinator's dream volunteer!

I asked her the other day, "what made you volunteer at the museum". I was expecting the usual answer "I love the history", but Doris being Doris said, "my friend Dorothea said she needed help". (Some of you may remember that Dr. Dorothea Kulis was a long-time museum supporter and was instrumental in establishing our beautiful gardens).

Doris, like many in the community, lived here when she was young. She went to Victoria Public School and BCI, left Brockville after completing high-school but returned in 1990 to help take care of her mother.

She remembers coming to the museum when it first opened, when the museum consisted of just Beecher House. When you would come in, Cathy Bigalow would shout from the upstairs "can I help you?" Things improved once the new addition opened and it now seems quite fitting that it is Doris who is now greeting visitors. She went on to explain that during quiet time at the front desk she likes to knit since if she reads she worries about nodding off!

I asked her what she enjoys about the museum. Her reply was "the relaxed atmosphere and the opportunity to meet interesting people". She

remembers meeting former MP John Matheson and "Brockette" Noreen Kelly in particular.

Being the start of a new year, I asked her if she had a new year's resolution - her typical Doris reply was "to stay above ground". You can't argue with that!

Staff at the Brockville Museum would like to thank Doris for all her hard work and dedication, and for helping to train so many other front desk volunteers over the years. Thank you Doris!



Volunteer Derek McCombie has been busy working on scanning the McCormick images from the McCormick collection since July 2014.

Volunteer Anniversary Recognition

As the year draws to a close we would like to highlight those volunteers who celebrated milestone anniversaries this year.

Celebrating 5 years:

- Alleine Nause (visitor services)
- Jean Ouellet (visitor services, Friends of the Brockville Museum, & Open Drawer project)
- Chuck Quick (visitor services & Open Drawer project)
- Nancy Van Ulden (visitor services & Open Drawer project)

Celebrating 15 years:

- Don Ruston (collections committee)

Congratulations to all of you on these important milestones!

The museum has prospered more than ever in 2014 thanks to the efforts of our volunteers. Over 25 new volunteers joined our ranks and the number of volunteer hours given to the museum has increased sharply over last year. We are very pleased to report that substantial progress has been made with the Open Drawer project. All of our three-dimensional objects have now been inputted into the catalogue and the catalogue is now available online! In 2015 we will be starting on entering all of the museum images into the electronic catalogue which although a challenge will be a very interesting task for everyone.

We applaud all of you, our volunteers, for your continuing commitment - the museum would not be able to keep its doors open if it weren't for you!

Submitted by V.K.



Volunteer Pot-Luck

On December 10th we invited our volunteers to a Christmas potluck and get-together. Of course this was the day of the first big snowstorm of the season, however, over 20 brave souls ventured out into the elements to join us. There was no shortage of tasty food and animated conversation.



A Roaring Good Time

On October 17th a 1920s dinner party was held in the Carriage Hall... and there was a murder (or two)! Well, not really, but we did hold our first ever Murder Mystery Dinner, to great success. Guests came in costumes and character and dined on fabulous 1920s fare. Special thanks to Rachel Marks and her actors for putting on a good interactive show, and to everyone who came out and participated.

R.H. Lindsay

Submitted by Bonnie Burke



"Brockville at Twilight", watercolour, by R.H. Lindsay. From the Brockville Museum's collection.

A few months after my retirement from the Brockville Museum, Rev. Allan Duncan, retired minister of First Presbyterian Church, asked me to join him and fellow Presbyterian Harold Kelly in organizing the archives of First Church. We have had a wonderful time going through some very old records especially those of Rev. Wm. Smart 1812. Rev. Duncan was such a knowledgeable man and we learned so much from him. Rev. Duncan passed away a few months ago. We are carrying on the work he enjoyed doing so much.

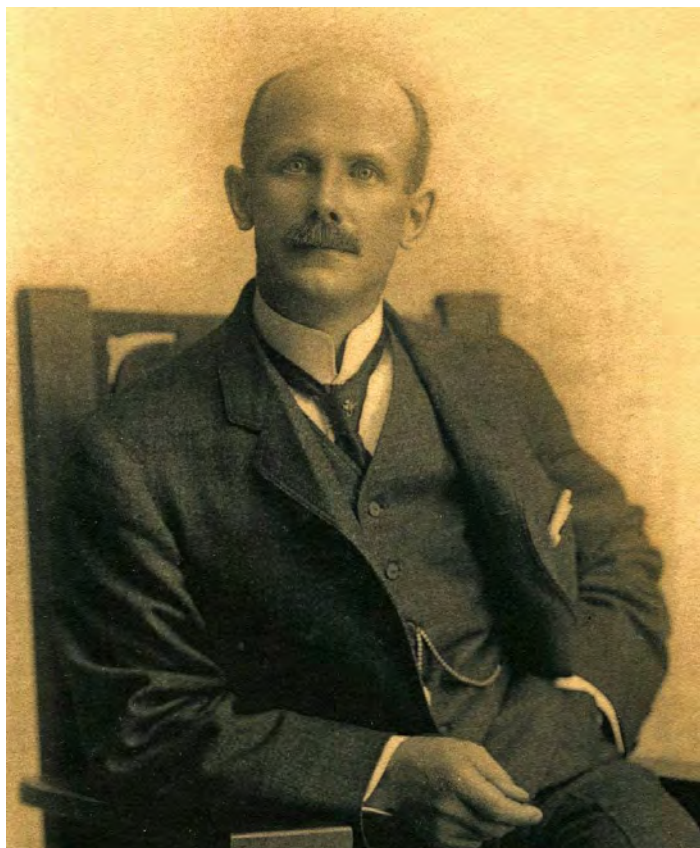
In November, Sandra and Harold Kelly and I were in the tower room looking for old photographs. We found two very large military honour rolls which were produced by R. H. Lindsay. These listed the members of First Church who served in WWI. I was so excited to see these. I learned that not many people in our congregation knew about this artist. We put the framed rolls on display for our Remembrance Day Service and our congregation really enjoyed seeing these long forgotten military works of art.

I was asked to share a little information on R. H. Lindsay for our church bulletin and thought you too may enjoy reading about this very talented artist.

About Robert Henry Lindsay

Robert Henry Lindsay was born in Prescott in 1868. His family moved to Brockville when he was a young boy and he remained a resident until his death in 1938. Lindsay's professional artistic endeavours began when he worked for the James Smart Manufacturing Company painting machinery. While employed there he became a student of the noted Canadian artist Percy Woodcock who was the principal instructor at the Brockville Art School. Lindsay eventually succeeded Woodcock at the school and began in earnest his painting career. Lindsay would go on to much local fame and come to be regarded as one of Canada's best. He exhibited around the world - United States, Ireland, and western Canada.

In 1895 Lindsay opened an art studio on Main Street, later 38 King St. West. The business not only sold art, but also offered framing, painting restoration and many other art-related services. In 1911 Lindsay became a member of the prestigious Arts Club of Montreal. Also in that year he became the art instructor at Brockville Collegiate Institute. He also taught at St.



world. He loved reading good books and served on the library board for forty years, was the first honorary member of the Brockville Rowing club, and helped raise money for numerous charities by giving lantern shows about art to enthusiastic audiences. He was known for his story-telling, his sense of humour, his optimism and his willingness to lend a hand. A friend of the Lindsays recalled Lindsay once told her what he looked forward to in heaven: "I'll have a whole tub of paint and splash it on with a broom".

Lindsay's work continues to delight both visitors and local people. With his brushes he captured a way of life and a time that is now only a memory to many Brockvillians. He gave First Presbyterian Church two wonderful pieces of art to help us remember those who served so bravely during the 'Great War'.

Submitted by Bonnie Burke, photos from the Brockville Museum

Alban's Boys School. In 1921, Mayor J. M. Dobbie commissioned Lindsay to paint a large version of the town seal to be placed above the Mayor's chair in the council chamber.

In 1908 Robert Lindsay married Margaret E. Boucher. Mrs. Lindsay was a member of First Presbyterian Church and was interested in the Women's Missionary Society. She was a member of the Individual Responsibility Group (this later became the Evening Missionary Society). Mr. Lindsay helped raise money for First Presbyterian Church by having an exhibit of Irish art at the church. He held a 'Night of Robert Burns' at BCIVS auditorium where he designed a large gold picture frame on the stage, projected his paintings onto the frame, people portrayed characters in pantomime and read Burns poetry.

Whenever Lindsay could find time, he would take out his bicycle, load up his paint box and ride off to the river to paint. He was a true lover of nature and his creations in oils and water colours reflected the beauties of land, sea, river and sky in this area and various parts of the



What we're planning for 2015

It's a little early for all the details yet, but staff have been busy coming up with new and exciting programs and events for 2015.

We will be bringing back Tea with Amy and annual favourites like the Lecture Series, Book Sale and Silent Auction, but we also hope to introduce new events to our lineup.

By popular demand, rest assured that we are planning another Beer Tasting event, probably for November.

For July and August we are hoping to offer evening walking tours of Brockville on the theme: Crimes and Criminals. Who knew that Brockville had such a seedy past... we did! And now we want to share these stories with you and our visitors. Look for more details in the spring.

The Brockville Museum will be hosting the Eastern Ontario British Home Child Day on September 26th. This annual event brings together researchers, genealogists (amateur and professional) and heritage organizations to discuss and celebrate British Home Child heritage in Canada.

We are also planning a number of new exhibits for 2015 starting with a flag exhibit celebrating John Ross Matheson's contributions and fifty years of the Canadian Flag. We will also continue to develop the "Made in Brockville" theme and the "People of Brockville" panels. We are also aiming to do a new railway exhibit and plan to wrap up the year with "A Wartime Christmas" exhibit to replace the "Wartime Photographs of Col. Curry" exhibit in the Annex. This is definitely an ambitious list of exhibits, but we hope that changing displays will entice people to come and visit the museum and engage in our history. That said, exhibits aren't cheap and we are always looking for people to sponsor exhibits or part thereof. Please contact the museum if you are interested in helping out financially.

2015 is promising to be another busy year at the museum. We hope that you will continue to support our initiatives and spread the word!

Submitted by N.W.

Winter-Spring Calendar of Events

January 8th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm: Winter on the River

February 3rd:

Lecture Series @ 10am: Brian Porter

February 10th:

Lecture Series @ 10am: Richard Brisson

February 14th:

Friends Annual General Meeting @ 10am

February 16th:

Family Day @ the Museum

February 17th:

Lecture Series @ 10am

February 24th:

Lecture Series @ 10am

March 3rd:

Lecture Series @10am

March 17th-19th:

March Break Programming

April 9th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm

April 27th-May 8th:

Friends Book Sale

May 14th:

Tea with Amy

May 23rd-24th:

Doors Open Brockville & the 1000 Islands

June 11th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm

June 27th-28th:

Friends Garden Tour

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



The Brockville Museum Newsletter

The Monitor

Volume 31, Issue 2: Summer 2015

Summer is Here!

Well, the May long weekend has come and gone, and with that comes the unofficial start to the summer tourism season. The museum is now open seven days a week! Monday-Saturday, 10-5 and Sunday, 1-5.

There are new faces at the museum this season too: our annual batch of summer students started in May, this year we welcomed four local students to our ranks.

We also use the start of the summer season to spruce things up in our galleries. This summer we are pleased to announce that visitors will be

privileged to several new displays. We've brought out some old telephones made in Brockville by General Electric. And keeping with the "Made in Brockville" theme, we've pulled out a wide selection of objects once made in Brockville including fishing lures, pantyhose and pharmaceuticals. And finally, back by popular demand is Con Darling's tattered jacket and baby carriage, capping off our recent "People of Brockville" display.

We've also got some new events planned for the summer, including the Friend's of the Brockville Museum's "Hidden Gardens of Brockville" tour on June 27 & 28, and our inaugural "Brockville's Criminal Past" Historical Walking Tours will take place every Friday night in July and August.

As we move ahead with 2015, we are focused on two major goals: continue to make progress on the Open Drawer Project and increase museum visitation. For the Open Drawer Project, this means getting our paper and photographic records catalogued and online. With our dedicated team of volunteers, this shouldn't be a problem. As for increasing visitation, this may take some time as we continue to develop exhibitions and improve our visibility, but thanks to a number of investments from the Friends of the Brockville Museum, we are well on our way!

Submitted by N.W.

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Hidden Gardens of Brockville Tour to support the Friends of the Brockville Museum

Article by Doreen Barnes

The Hidden Gardens of Brockville brochures and posters are popping up all over Brockville and surrounding areas, with this event taking place on Saturday, June 27th from 10a.m. to 4p.m and Sunday, June 28, 11a.m. to 3 p.m.

This fundraiser organized by the Friends of the Brockville Museum is in partnership with the Brockville and 1000 Islands Tourism with sponsorship by the Great Waterway South Eastern Ontario and Henderson Printing.

For \$10 a ticket, the public has the opportunity to view never-seen or would-not-normally-see gardens.

"There was a slow uptake in Brockville initially to get gardens on the tour," said Friends of the Brockville Museum co-chair Doug Smith, "but we do have eight, six in Brockville and two in Maitland. But, the Maitland Garden of Hope and Mary Ann Van Barlow's gardens were offered and I accepted, which did boost the number of gardens."

Each garden in this tour offers diversity.

At 49 Pearl St. W., these heritage gardens are accented with an English cottage garden and a series of rooms showcasing poppies, lupines, roses and more.

Moving onto 49 Abbott St., Hugh Campbell, a novice gardener now an organic food producer turned an asphalt lot into an annual vegetable garden with a series of raised beds of berry shrubs, grapes, black tomatoes, kiwi vines and fruit trees.

Another heritage home at 14 Maple St. has wrap around gardens with many new plant varieties. This property also has another hidden garden.

Behind 512 King St. W., fairies, gnomes and local wildlife can be found among the ever abundance of flowers and plants.

Not all gardens are on flat ground, as seen at

the entry West of 100 Hartley with the hillside garden escape. The massive evergreen trees stand as sentries protecting the colour bursts of secluded grounds.

Don't miss the warm and inviting gardens at 76 Orchard St., a place where friends and relatives gather.

As for the two properties in Maitland, 1357 County Road 2 gardens are plentiful with sun-loving perennials, shrubs, shade plants and old favorites, irises, peonies, penstemons, daylilies, clematis, heucheras, hostas, ferns and uncommon plants.

Over at the Maitland Garden of Hope, there are 20 theme gardens with 5,000 perennials, grasses and shrubs. Lending to nature, a registered monarch way station and apiary exists in co-habitation with birds, honeybees and ground visitors.

Most gardens are accessible, but be mindful of steep grades, uneven surface and hillsides.

Tickets are available the Brockville Museum, 5 Henry St.



Volunteers are needed for this event!
Please contact Doug Smith at 613-342-7924
or contact the museum.



Gramophone Tour Project comes to Brockville for May 4th

The Gramophone Tour Project started in the UK, went through England, and came to Canada by way of a Canadian Lancaster Bomber last September. The Brockville Museum was contacted in late February 2015 about the possibility of bringing the gramophone to Brockville for May 4th (Remembrance of the Dead day in the Netherlands).

The inspiration for the Tour was the heroic actions of Brockville's Robert B. Moulton, who was piloting his Vickers Wellington He-727, NA-K in the night of May 4th, 1943. He was hit by a German night fighter aircraft as he was trying to return to the North Yorkshire RCAF base at Dalton. It was hit near the village of Wilnis. Moulton steered the plane away from the village and crashed into a nearby bog, sacrificing his own life to save those of the villagers. The whole plane disappeared into the peat bog, not to be seen again until 2002 after a half million dollar excavation campaign to raise the plane.

In the summer of 2008, a group of a dozen men from England and Holland visited Dalton. They held a small ceremony, placing a contemporary gramophone on the airstrip. They found that playing it helped them to reflect upon their freedom and made them feel humble.

The Gramophone then went to the Netherlands and was played in Wilnis.

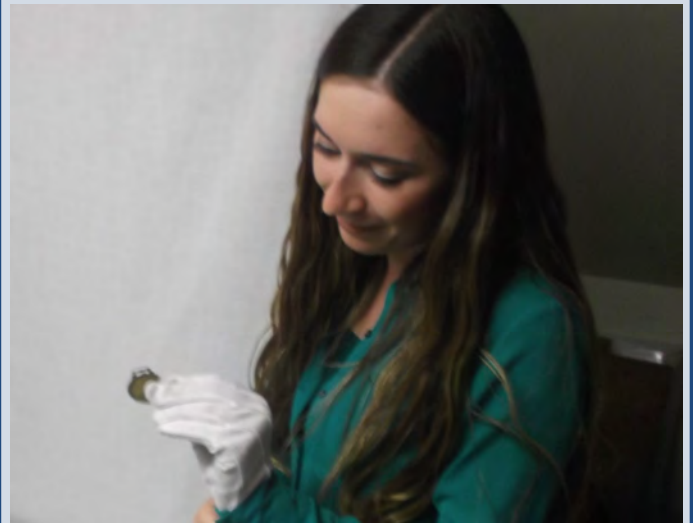
Today, there are two gramophones travelling to different military and civilian locations to honour the fallen: one in Canada and one in Europe.

The Brockville Museum was honoured to host the Gramophone Tour on May 4th and hold a ceremony of remembrance simultaneously with one at the Dalton airfield and one in the village of Wilnis. The local ceremony included the unveiling of a "People of Brockville" panel honouring Moulton, the reading of "High Flight", the playing of the gramophone, and a performance by Brockville's Dutch Choir. The museum was especially honoured to have members of Moulton's family in attendance.

Photos of the Wilnis ceremony are posted on our Facebook page.

Submitted by N.W.

Introducing Ellen...



The Friends of the Brockville applied for and received an 8-week "Canada Summer Jobs" grant from Service Canada for an Assistant Registrar. We hired Ellen O'Dair for this position. Originally from Brockville, Ellen is currently enrolled in Ancient Mediterranean Studies at Wilfred Laurier University, which has fostered an interest in working with historical objects. She hopes to pursue a career as an archivist or museum librarian. Ellen will be working closely with Alison, re-cataloguing and photographing artifacts.

From the Photographic Archive: King Street & Market St. E.

In this issue's "From the Photographic Archives", we take a look at a recent acquisition that came to us by way of Clayton, New York, initially as a research request and as a bit of a mystery.

The historian there came across this photograph and was trying to place it. Research on the internet of some of the businesses featured suggested that it might be Brockville. Hoping to gain some insight, the Clayton historian sent us a copy of the image.

Admittedly, when we first looked at it, we couldn't place it. Most of the photos that we are used to seeing of Brockville are dated after 1910. At first glance, there were no distinguishing features in this frame that made us think, "Brockville". But, ever the curious historians ourselves, we went digging. We too did an internet search, and sure enough, *Poulin's Cigar Factory*, for one, came up as identifiably Brockville. So, with it fairly well established that this was indeed Brockville, we dove into our photographic archives to place the buildings. And did we ever! These photos of King Street (included to the right) helped identify the prominent building on the corner (where the Wedgewood now stands).

This was a fun and fulfilling little research project. The historian in Clayton was pleased that we solved the mystery and in turn donated the picture to the Brockville Museum.



Above: Cropped photos from the museum's collection c.1909 & c. 1892.

Below: mystery picture from Clayton.



Submitted by N.W.

Open Drawer Project Update

It is hard to believe that we have reached the one year mark for our Open Drawer Project! Volunteer involvement and enthusiasm for this project has far surpassed our expectations. Logging over 2,500 hours to date, volunteers have entered all of our three dimensional objects into the new online database. Thanks to the help of our new volunteer photographer, images of some of our artifacts can now be viewed online through the Brockville Museum's website. We encourage everyone to take a look at the database and read about the many artifacts that the Brockville Museum has in its collection (new information being added daily).

The second phase of the project began in April of this year with volunteers entering in information on our paper and photographic collection. With 29,000 archival objects in total, most with little or no information recorded about them, this phase is more in-depth and requires a hands-on approach from our volunteers. In the coming months, volunteers will receive extensive care and handling training, and will then have the opportunity to handle some of our paper and photographic objects as they record descriptions, history, dimensions and condition remarks. This information is crucial to building background information and context for objects. Being able to identify the location and people in a photograph makes the object that much more meaningful. Not surprising, volunteers are looking forward to getting their *gloved* hands on these artifacts and putting their training to use.

In concert with the data entry activities of the Open Drawer Project, the museum's collection storage rooms have undergone drastic reorganization in an effort to improve space efficiencies, access, and object preservation. Thanks to on-going contributions from The Friends of the Brockville Museum towards conservation supplies, new archival boxes were

recently purchased. These specialty boxes offer a safe storage option for paper and photographic artifacts, help prevent deterioration, and meet professional preservation and conservation standards. Using these boxes also makes artifacts more easily retrievable and allows us to better share more of Brockville's unique stories with our community.

Thank you to the Friends of the Brockville Museum for their on-going financial commitment to this exciting project and to our many volunteers who have been diligently working to make this long-planned initiative a reality!

Submitted by A.D.



Alison is pictured here providing a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the museum's textile storage room during Doors Open on May 23rd. Tours were offered hourly during the two day event and provided an introduction on artifact care and conservation as well as collections management. Visitors were invited to explore the Textile Room, the Archive Room and our three-dimensional object Storage Room.

Upcoming Exhibits

We are in the midst of a five-year exhibit revitalization plan at the museum. We started in 2013 with the Hat Exhibit. In 2014 we unveiled a temporary exhibit on the Wartime Photographs of Col. Curry (now on until September). During this time we also worked to re-organize and update some of our other existing displays. We've also worked to incorporate our two interpretive themes: "Made in Brockville" and "The People of Brockville". Earlier this year we removed the St. Alban's School exhibit and replaced it with a temporary exhibit celebrating 50 years of our flag (on now until the end of July).

We've got an ambitious plan for the next 2 years which includes temporary displays and permanent exhibits:

August: *The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats:* a travelling exhibit presented by the National Library of Ireland and brought to the Brockville Museum in partnership with the Brockville Irish Cultural Society.

September: *Stitching Expressions:* an exhibition by the Artistic Stitchers showcasing their impressive needlepoint creations.

October 2015 – January 2016: *Holidays Back Home – Brockville & WWII:* a holiday-themed exhibit that explores how people kept traditions alive despite the challenges of War.

Opening in Winter 2016: *Brockville's Railway History:* a new permanent exhibit examining Brockville's rich railway history.

October 2016: *The Barn Raising Project:* a travelling exhibition featuring 40 pieces of traditional hooked artwork depicting the rural barns of Canada. Presented in partnership with Brockville's Hooking Craft Guild.

January 2017-December 2017: *How Brockville Celebrated the Centennial:* a temporary exhibit looking back on 1967 in Brockville.

Submitted by N.W.

More People Unveiled



Chairman of the Board of Management and "People of Brockville" exhibit panel sponsor, Brian Porter, shares some of his favourite stories about Major Walsh during the Friends of the Brockville Museum Annual General Meeting and "People of Brockville" exhibit panel unveiling ceremony on February 14th. Five new panels were unveiled that day, including Walsh.

Introducing Cole and Mallory...



Between Victoria Day and Labour Day weekends, the museum is open seven days a week! To cover weekend front desk shifts, we hire local students. This year, we welcome Cole Pettum and Mallory Phillips.

BROCKVILLE'S CRIMINAL PAST HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

Fridays in July & August
Tours Depart @ 4pm & 7pm
Brockville Museum

Tickets \$6/person

**not recommended for
children under 10*

This summer, join us for a walking tour... if you dare

When the Counties Courthouse relocated to Brockville, it brought with it some amazing stories and changed the town forever. Even back in the 1800s, courtroom galleries were packed with curious onlookers and detailed trial reports sold newspapers...but proceedings inside the Courthouse were just the beginning. Historically, the mean streets of Brockville have harboured some vicious criminals and seen violent crimes.

This summer, guides from the Brockville Museum will recount the stories from "Brockville's Criminal Past".

For those that dare: you will 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.

Warning: some of the stories are graphic and the tour is not recommended for children under 10 years of age.

Tickets are available at Brockville Museum prior to tour departures.

Submitted by A.M.

Children's Summer Programs

For kids age 6-11



Fun at the Circus
July 7-9

CURATOR FOR A DAY
Aug. 11-13

HOMETOWN HEROES
July 21-23

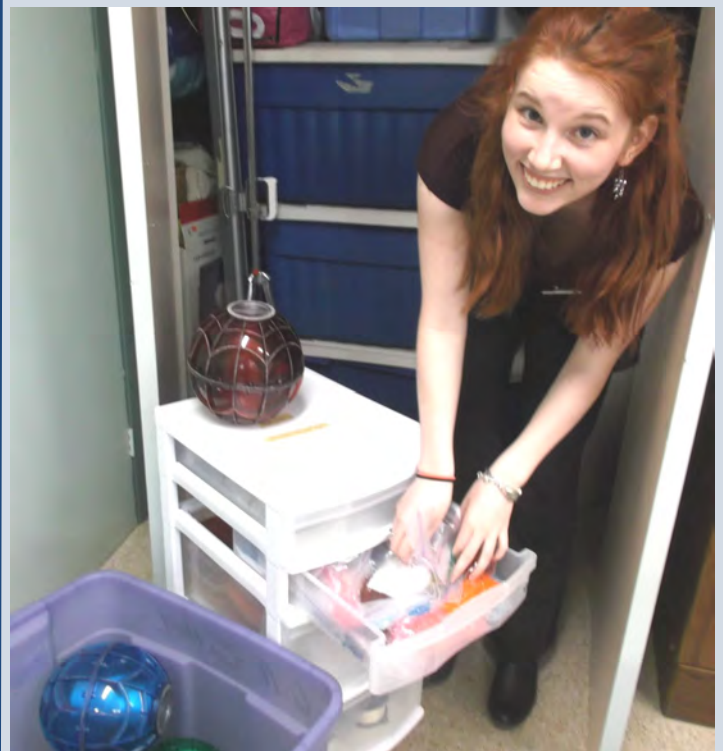
Soldiers of the Stage
Aug. 25-27

10am-noon each day

\$30/child for members

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Introducing Emily...



Introducing Emily Tobin, this summer's Interpretation and Programming Assistant. Emily is currently studying concurrent education at Queen's University and hopes to one day be a high school English teacher. Here she is engaged in a typical first week job at the museum: combing through our craft supplies in search of inspiration for a program! This position has been funded through a Young Canada Works grant.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Volunteer Nicholas Legault joined us in February after expressing an interest in photography. His timing was perfect! He has been spending his time taking museum-standard photographs of the museum's artifacts for the online database. Museum Administrative Assistant/Registrar, Alison Dingledine told me how pleased she is with his work and his diligence and attention to detail, which is so necessary when undertaking this kind of work.

His "black" image hides a cheery disposition. Don't let his clothing choices fool you. As he explains "I wore lots of bright colours as a child and then I decided I didn't like them anymore". Black is now his colour of choice, right down to the gloves! He laughs as he explains further, "I've been called "the priest" or even "the undertaker" because I'm always in black. The gloves are not a fashion statement though, due to anaphylaxis he is deathly allergic to many foods and the gloves are a preventive measure against direct contact.

That doesn't slow him down in any way - he is an avid photographer, reader, and driver. His favourite photographic themes are wildlife and nature. His love of driving is a natural adjunct. He enjoys exploring country roads, looking for places to take pictures. Trying to get lost on lonely back roads adds to experience, "you never know where you are going to end up... and that just adds to the fun!" Nicholas also reads over 100 books per year, no particular genre, just whatever strikes his fancy. Not surprisingly, Nicholas also volunteers at the Brockville Public Library, where he has been for just over a year, and also with the Youth Volunteer Group (which is part of the Employment and Education Centre).

I asked Nicholas to tell me something curious about himself...apparently his birthday is July 1st, but he wasn't born on just any July 1st, he was born on Canada's 125th birthday...



Nicholas in the textile room photographing an assortment of Brockville-related ball caps.

Nicholas' 25th birthday it seems, should be quite a party!!

So if you come across a young man dressed in black driving a silver Jeep on a dirt road, don't worry, it's just our volunteer Nicholas trying to find his way home!

Submitted by V.K.



The Brockville Museum was thrilled to welcome another high school co-op student this spring. Alex LaCroix, from St. Mary, has been busy working on the Open Drawer Project and helping with the reorganization of the Archives Room.

Volunteers needed for Hidden Gardens of Brockville



New Banners

Thanks to the Friends of the Brockville Museum three banners were purchased last fall. They were installed this spring by volunteer, Greg Healy. They add a pop of colour to the Water Street side of the museum building and are visible from St. Paul Street to St. Andrew Street.

The images on the three banners represent Brockville's people, Brockville's industrious past, and our connection to the river.

An over-grown bush had to be removed from next to the building in order to make the banners fully visible. This labourious task was performed by volunteer, Scott Mackie.

Submitted by N.W.

Friends Receive Sad News

As we were wrapping up production of this issue of the Monitor, we received the sad news that Friends Executive member, Robert Palmer had passed away.

Robert joined the Friends Executive in 2014 and has been a tremendous supporter of the museum over the past several years, not only financially, but in his contagious enthusiasm and un-relentless bolster-ism.

Robert will truly be missed by his museum family.



Robert Palmer with his "girls" at our volunteer pot-luck in December 2014.



The Carriage Hall full of books on the first day of the annual Book Sale. Photo by Ralph Newson. This year's sale was the best we have ever had. Thanks to an excellent effort on the part of the Friends of the Brockville Museum a record total of \$1,635 was raised.



Find us on:
facebook®

Looking ahead to 2017

Yes, that's right, "2017". Communities across Canada are preparing for our 150th birthday celebration! And we at the Brockville Museum will not let the festivities pass us by. So, what are we planning?

We're looking back at 1967 and all its glory!



Westminster School, 1967. *Recorder & Times* Collection.

Centennial and Centeen Parks, the Youth Arena, parades and dances. How *did* Brockville celebrate the Centennial? We are preparing an exhibit that celebrates how we celebrate.

The Centennial marked a period of significant community building across the country, I dare you to find a town in this country that doesn't have a Centennial arena, park, or community centre. In this sense, Brockville's story may not be unique, but how we marked 100 years is a pivotal story in how we developed as a community. We hope that you will be as excited to step back to the 1960s as we are.

Do you have a special memory, photo or souvenir of celebrating the Centennial in Brockville? We'd love for you to share it with us. Contact us to find out how.



Opening of Centennial Park, 1967. *Recorder & Times* Collection.

Submitted by N.W.

Summer-Fall Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 11th:

Tea with ~~Amy~~ Viktor @ 2pm

Cruising Blockhouse

Saturday & Sunday, June 27th-28th:

Hidden Gardens of Brockville

Every Friday in July & August starting July 3rd:
Brockville's Criminal Past Historical Walking Tour
@ 4pm & 7pm

Thursday, July 9th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm

Guess the Artifact

Thursday, August 13th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm

Ferry Services

Friday, August 28th:

Last presentation of "Brockville's Criminal Past"

Thursday, September 10th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm

The Fall Fair

Friday & Saturday, September 18th & 19th:

Silent Auction

Saturday, September 26th:

Ontario East British Home Child Day Festivities

Thursday, October 8th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm

Cemeteries

Wednesday, October 28th (tentative date):

Montreal "Beaver Hall Group" Exhibit Bus Tour

Thursday, November 12th:

Tea with Amy @ 2pm

Friday, November 27th:

Raising a Pint for the Brockville Museum

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



The Monitor

The Brockville Museum Newsletter

Volume 31, Issue 3: Fall 2015

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 dinning 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.

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.



Find us on:
facebook®

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

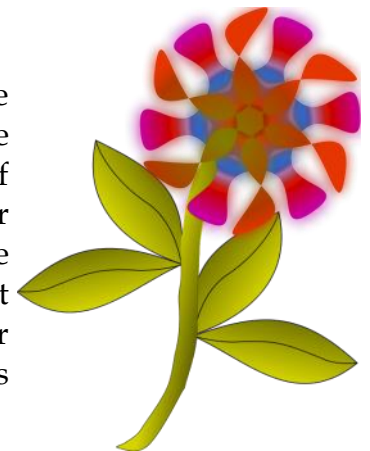
A brief reminder that the Friends Annual General Meeting will take place February 13th, 2016 (the second Saturday of February) at 10am at the museum.

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!

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