



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 4 & 5: Rotary Holiday House Tour
- December 5: Phoenix Dinner; draw for wine hampers
- December 12 & 13: Holiday Treat pick up
- December 12: Santa Claus Parade
- December 24, 25, 26, 31 & January 1: Museum closed for the holidays
- February: Free for residents of NOTL
- February 18 - Members Trivia Night, 7 pm

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SOCIETY  MUSEUM

## NEW VIDEO PROJECT ENGAGES VISITORS



Thanks to generous funding from Life Supporters, David Murray and Elizabeth Surtees, we have installed a new video component to our permanent gallery that will help better tell the story of Niagara-on-the-Lake's rich history.

Asked why they chose to fund this particular Museum audio-visual project Elizabeth said, "the Niagara story comes alive when you see and hear it told by live voices and picture collages". "Understanding our history means more than Museum visitors simply viewing inanimate objects and reading descriptive cards" added David.

The project features nine short videos on various topics including First Nations history, the Loyalists, the Capital Years, the War of 1812, rebuilding after the war, tourism, military history, transportation and industry, and the 20th century.

Written and produced by Barbara Worthy, with video production by 12th Street Productions, the project gives us a total of 55 minutes of video with over 500 **images and video clips depicting the town's unique history. The videos are** narrated by Steven Baranyai, David Murray, Barbara Worthy and Christopher Newton.

The videos are available to visitors using handheld tablets which can be checked out upon entry to the Museum. Visitors scan QR codes throughout the gallery to access the presentations. These technical components were developed by Creative Bytes Studios in St. Catharines.

For those that are not familiar with this type of technology, the devices are very use friendly - simply tap the screen, hold it up to a plaque and tap again to play.

So, next time you visit the Museum, we encourage you to use the tablets and experience our history in a whole new way!

# happening at the museum

## Members Trivia Night

Thursday, February 18th at 7 pm

Make a team of 6 and test your knowledge at this fun, members-only event. **Don't have a team? Don't worry, we will make one for you!** Call to book your seats.



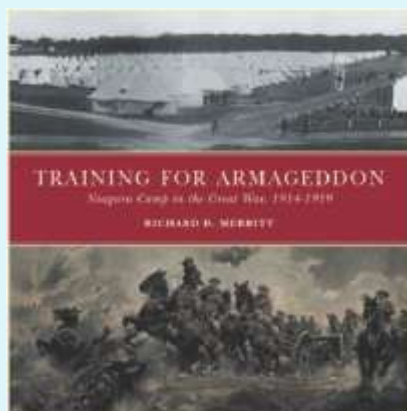
## The Phoenix Dinner

Saturday, December 5, 2015

Tickets to this elegant evening are \$125 per person which includes a cocktail reception, three course dinner and entertainment by Emma Meinrenken. **This year's theme is Niagara Camp in the First World War.** Seating is limited! Thank you to our event sponsor OLIV

## Check out the Museum Gift Shop for Holiday Shopping Ideas

Looking for gift ideas this holiday season? Check out the Niagara Historical Society's newest publications!

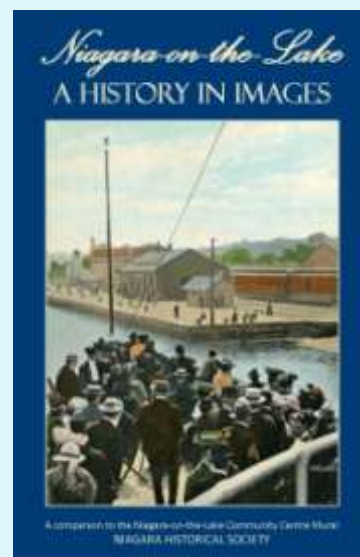


Many of you have already enjoyed Richard Merritt's TRAINING FOR ARMAGEDDON: Niagara Camp in the Great War, 1914-1919. Did you know that the full price of each book sold goes directly to the Society? A great way to learn more about Niagara's military history and support the preservation of our collection.

We also are excited to announce the release of another new book in early December. Your Society has published the images and descriptions from the Community Centre Mural project!

Niagara-on-the-Lake: A History in Images includes over 80 images that tell the stories of this community from the past 200 years. Get your copy before Christmas for \$20.

We have many other historical books, reproductions, heritage gifts and Christmas giftware for sale. Come by and check it out in December. The Museum is open daily from 1 pm to 5 pm. And remember, your 10% membership discount applies on all purchases, plus there is no tax!



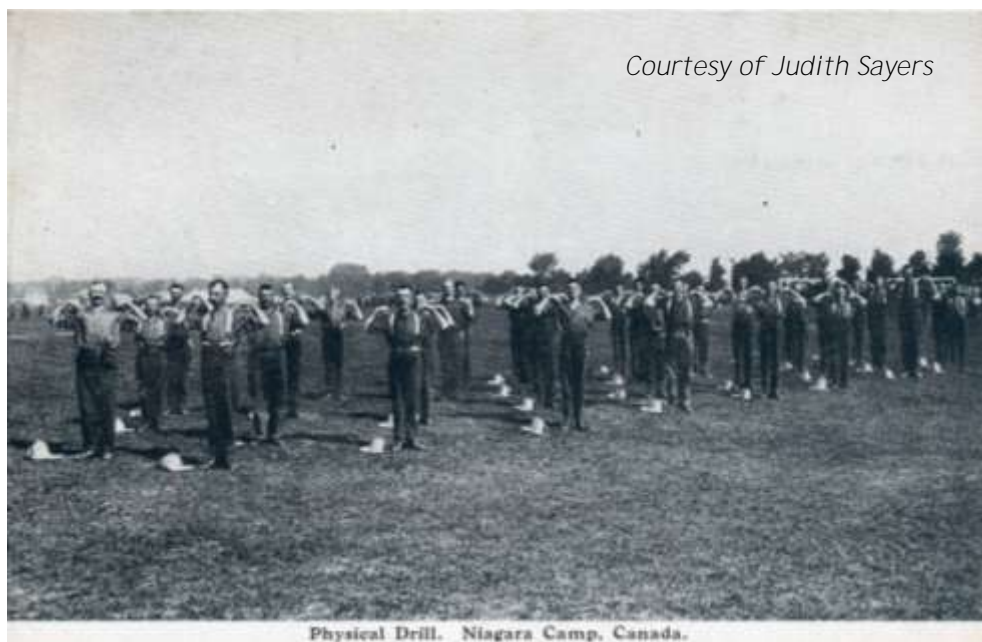


## TRAINEE'S DAILY ROUTINE AT NIAGARA CAMP

Soldiers usually slept eight to a tent, with their feet towards the central pole, along with their **kit and rifles**. The camp was awakened by the bugler's Reveille at 5:30 a.m. The men rose, quickly folded their blankets, shook out their straw mattresses and piled their kit neatly in front of their tent. The side walls of tents were rolled up and the ropes tightened. Then it was time **for a quick wash and shave in troughs of cold, soapy water before fall in at the battalion's parade group**. Here they would get the officers' report and the chaplain's prayer for the King and Empire.

After breakfast was an hour of bayonet fighting and physical training. At 9:30 a.m. the men dispersed for lectures, hands-on instruction, and drills. A substantial hot dinner was supplied at noon. Training sessions then continued until 4:30 p.m. with a rest period at 2 p.m. A light supper was served at 5 p.m. followed by free time until First Post at 9:30 p.m. Last Post, all lights and cigarettes out, was sounded at 10 p.m. by a bugler or piper.

The monotony of camp was broken up by various special events such as manoeuvres, tattoos, VIP visits, visiting days on Sundays, and occasionally men were granted leave for approximately three days. There were also **various 'parades'**, including Church Parades (Sundays), Bathing Parades, Sick Parades, Inoculation Parades, Foot **Parades**, **'Short-arm Parades'**, and Long Route Marches.



# Chronicles



Kate Cain, Roy Roden, Pam Mundy, Tony Chisholm, Steve Steele, Judy Thornton, Denise Ascenzo and Rick Meloen, our cemetery tour volunteers. This year's tours were funded by the Province of Ontario.



Aaron Berger and members of the *Perpetual Peace Project* provide entertainment at the Mustache Bash.



More from the MUSTACHE BASH above: Volunteers Saber and Ashley from the Niagara College Event Management program, Steven Brule of *Silver Sunbeam* creating an old fashioned tintype, and the guys from *The Northern Beard Company* (oils & waxes).



Above: Lorne Kennedy, Gabrielle Jones and Barbara Worthy present poems, readings and songs in "Pack Up Your Troubles" on Remembrance Day.

Right: Faith Bell and Vicki Bell enjoy the Redpath Sugar Museum during our bus trip to see the Magna Carta in October



## Curator's Corner

It has been a busy couple of months for the Collection Committee with lots of new items **being donated to the museum.** We've had many generous donations of Niagara Camp material, such as photos, documents and a particularly interesting collection about a First World War Canadian soldier training for the Siberian Expedition. The collection chronicles his preparation for his trip to Siberia, including his time at Niagara Camp, the rest of his journey before the mission was cancelled, and even includes a photo of the supposed ship on which the contingent was scheduled to sail **from Vancouver.** We've also just recently received an excellent collection chronicling the life and military career of World War II soldier Roy Greaves, who was a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In the early fall the museum was approached by the Clement family with a series of paintings done by Norton Clement after he suffered a stroke. The paintings were discovered hidden **in the attic of the family's house while getting** it ready to sell. The family has generously loaned us the series of paintings to temporarily display in upper Memorial Hall until February so that the community can enjoy these wonderful pieces of art. The paintings are switched out every few weeks so that the whole series can be displayed. Come February, the Ontario **Archives' travelling exhibit *Dear Sadie - Loves, Lives and Remembrance from Ontario's First World War*** will replace the Clement painting exhibit and will be on display until April 2016.

- Tami Daoust



Painting by Norton Clement

## Z Way it Was

Photos from Niagara-on-the-Lake's Past



*This photo shows the "Anchor and Marine Hot Dog Stand". It was situated on the wharf on the property of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club. An inscription on the back of the card notes the name, "T. LeDoux", who was the owner of the stand. Numerous people can be seen about the building which was open for business during the ice jam in the spring of 1955. Note the train tracks of the Michigan and Central Railway which ran to the loading sheds situated on the dock.*

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & POSTAGE FEES

If you are an annual member and have not renewed your membership for 2016 a renewal form has been included with your newsletter. Please take the time to fill out the form and submit it at your earliest convenience.

Due to the increasing cost of postage the Society will be introducing a new postage fee in 2016. If you choose to have your newsletter delivered four times per year by mail, a \$5 fee will be added to your annual membership. If you receive your newsletter by email, no additional fees will apply.

For those that prefer to have a hard copy without the postage fee, we will always have copies available at the museum.

## From the Acting Managing Director - Amy Klassen

I feel like the fall was even busier than the summer! With the final two lectures of our Great War Series, our popular Theatrical Cemetery Tours in September, the North Star Festival Symposium, AGM and Bus Trip to Fort York in October, and finally, our Mustache Bash, Remembrance Day performance and Paranormal talk in November, we have certainly not been a quiet little museum. We will finish off the year with our Phoenix Dinner, an elegant evening to commemorate Niagara Camp in the First World War.

We are very pleased with the attendance we have had for our programming and the feedback has been very positive. We can really see that the Museum is gaining momentum in the community and becoming a real hub of cultural activity. In particular, the *Mustache Bash*, **part of a “First Fridays” series with the Museums of Niagara Association**, was aimed at drawing in a younger crowd who might not normally check out a museum event. We were delighted to have over 50 new faces at the Museum who enjoyed food by **Smokin’ Buddha**, **live music by Aaron Berger and Perpetual Peach Project**, and **fun mustache-inspired activities**. Our group of partner museums hope to continue the series next year and engage a new generation of museum-goers.

In addition to the extensive programming we have done, we also put out two new publications this year. **Richard Merritt’s TRAINING FOR ARMAGEDDON** was generously funded by Dr. Merritt and has been a great fundraiser for the Society since we receive the full amount from each sale. The book has been well received and is really the only complete work on Niagara Camp during the First World War (which includes the story of the Polish training camp). We have also just released a book as a companion to the Bicentennial mural project at the Community Centre. *Niagara-on-the-Lake: A History in Images* is available at the Museum gift shop in early December.

This year, as always, we have looked to various granting organizations to help fund the work that we do. We thank our funders because without these programs, we would not be able to offer unique programming or do upgrades to our facility. We have several grant applications pending that will hopefully fund some projects in 2016 so stay tuned!

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. 2016 marks 120 years of our unparalleled collection **and we will be showcasing many of our early artefacts with an exhibition called “Janet’s Gems”**, opening in May. We want to use this exhibit as an opportunity to look at what early museums were doing and how much things have changed. We hope it creates a dialogue about the role of museums and their **importance in one’s community**.

This will be my last membership note as your Acting Managing Director. It has been a pleasure to manage the Museum over the past several months and I hope that I have filled **Sarah’s shoes well**. I want to thank **Tami Daoust for working hard at keeping the collection in order with incoming acquisitions, working with our curatorial volunteers and Collections Management Committee and helping with special events throughout the year.**

We hope to see many of you out at our annual trivia night on February **18th, which will be Sarah’s welcome backparty from maternity leave!**

*Thank you to the Board and Staff for celebrating my 15 years at the Museum. The gift and cake at the Annual Meeting were very much appreciated!*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Faith Bell

**This is my first President's Message and while I have served on the board for the past three years and love the Museum, I will admit that I am not a historian. I am a person that believes that we are keepers of our history, heritage and culture for the enjoyment and education of future generations. My hope is that I will oversee a period of sustainable funding, leading us toward positive growth and expansion.**

Thank you to all members who attended the Annual Meeting on October 15th, 2015. Our Strategic Plan is near completion and we will be redeveloping the Plan to reflect our needs and growth to the year 2020. In addition, we received a briefing from board member Doug Phibbs on the Coffee Break project. This campaign takes your Board to coffee with our Town Councillors, to talk to them for 12 minutes about the **need for sustainable funding for the Museum. In a Town that prides itself on being a "historical" town, the Museum is the keeper of the Town's heritage and culture. Sustainable funding is necessary in order for the Museum to maintain its current activities and move forward with expansion plans presented in our feasibility study earlier this year. This new, more assertive approach is opening the eyes of our Town and Council to what we do for the Town and how well we do it.**

There is much work to do in this vision of growth but first we should celebrate - **so don't forget to come out to the Phoenix Dinner on December 5th. It is an excellent opportunity to toast the year - our look to new growth as well as where we have been. It is also an excellent way to support the Museum and all the work we do to keep, nurture and share Niagara's heritage.**

### PHOENIX CIRCLE



In September, the Phoenix Circle enjoyed a special tour of the Morningstar Mill and house at Decew. Pictured above left to right: Molly Enns, Dennis Kam, Kathy Heit, Tami Daoust, Les Taylor, David Bell, Faith Bell, Geoffrey Joyner and Lorraine Joyner.

The generous donations from the Phoenix Circle have helped to create more sustainable revenue for the Society and assist with the operating costs of running the Museum. To learn more about becoming part of the Circle, please contact us!

### 2015 NHS Annual Meeting

At the AGM on October 15th, we welcomed new Board Members David Hemmings, Suzanne Hebert and David Aurandt. We said goodbye to Steve Hinchliffe & Richard Andrews, both of whom stepped down because of other commitments. We thank our outgoing Board volunteers for their dedication to the Society and for making sure we were always moving in the right direction.

We also welcomed a new President, Faith Bell. Faith has already served for several years in the VP role and will now be Chairing the Board. Dennis Kam has stayed on for **one year in our new "Past President" Board role.**

For a full version of the minutes from the 2015 Annual General Meeting visit [www.niagarahistorical.museum](http://www.niagarahistorical.museum) under the **"Get Involved" tab.**

# Niagara Historical Society & Museum

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Elizabeth Surtees, VP Society  
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Martin Richardson  
Lorraine Joyner  
Denise Ascenzo  
Doug Phibbs  
David Hemmings  
Suzanne Hebert  
Paolo Miele - Town Representative

## HONORARY LIFE SUPPORTERS

Joy Ormsby  
Richard Taylor  
Dr. Richard Merritt  
Christopher Allen  
Robert Knight

## MUSEUM STAFF

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Tami Daoust - Acting Curator  
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Visit us at [www.niagarahistorical.museum](http://www.niagarahistorical.museum)



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## MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum is open daily year-round.

May-October: 10 am to 5 pm | November-April: 1 pm to 5 pm

**The Museum is closed: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Eve.**



THE NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM WISHES TO THANK THE TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE AND THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT



[www.niagarahistorical.museum](http://www.niagarahistorical.museum)