



MUSEUM Chronicles

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 30 & Dec 1: Rotary Holiday House Tour
- Dec 1: Members Exhibit Launch & Phoenix Soiree
- Dec 8: Santa Claus Parade
- Dec 18 - Jan 1: Museum closed
- Jan 28: Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- Feb 20: Members' Trivia Night, 7 pm
- Feb 25: Famous & Infamous, 2 pm

Polo photos courtesy of Jansen Ozkur



Niagara Historical
SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NIAGARA POLO RAISES \$40,000 FOR THE SOCIETY!

It was a chilly day, but it did not stop the spectators from coming out to see the Sport of Kings on the Commons. On September 8th we hosted Niagara Polo to a crowd of over 1500 people and we are pleased to report that we doubled our revenue from the 2016 event, raising just over \$40,000 for the Niagara Historical Society!

The event would not have been a success without a hardworking committee of volunteers: George Dell, Howie Kudrats, Jolanta Janny, Rene Bertschi, Lois Chapman, Lorraine Joyner, Anne Dickson, Dick Coyne, Mona Babin, Neil Rumble, Patti Knipe and Suzanne Hebert, plus the many volunteers who helped the day of the event, including some energetic students from Brock University and Niagara College.

The event would not have been possible without the generous support of our wonderful sponsors:

Major Sponsor: Engel & Voelkers Realty

Team Sponsors: Jackson-Triggs (Arterra Wines), Inniskillin (Arterra Wines), Niagara-on-the-Lake Bed & Breakfast Association, Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Corporate Sponsors: Walker Industries, Vintage Hotels, Sullivan Mahoney, Fairmont Properties, Aquabella B&B, Franklin-Templeton Investments

Divot Stomp Sponsor: Vieni Estates

Public Lounge and Best Hat Competition: BeauChapeau

Wine Sponsor: Arterra Wines

Beer Sponsor: Silversmith Brewing Company

In Kind Support: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Toronto Polo Club, Parks Canada, Sentineal Carriages, Rotary Club of NOTL, Mori Gardens, Penner Lumber, Rempel Maximum Ice Service, Greenhawk Equestrian, Upper Canada Cheese Company, Premier Equipment, 105.7 EZ Rock, Shaw Festival

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the event, donated to the silent auction and helped to promote. We hope to see everyone on the Commons for Niagara Polo 2020!



happening at the museum



Members Trivia Night

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20th, 2018 | 7 PM

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

This is a free event for members only.

FAMOUS & INFAMOUS

January - November | 2 pm

Our Famous & Infamous biography discussion group has changed to Mondays! Join us in the gallery once a month for a presentation by a local resident, followed by a lively discussion about the life of a famous or infamous person from the past.

28 Jan Suzanne Hebert: Shah of Iran, Pt 2

25 Feb Sheila Hill: Rex Whistler

25 Mar David Sydor: Lloyd Dennis

22 Apr Betsy Masson: Hannah Peters Jarvis

27 May Michael Clark: Theodore Roosevelt

24 Jun David Aurandt: Col Sam McLaughlin

22 Jul Julian Rance: Francesco Franco

26 Aug Ted Rumble: Dusko Popov

23 Sep Richard Merritt: William Claus

28 Oct Linda Fritz: Vanessa Bell

25 Nov Craig Tallman: Clementine Churchill

Looking to make a end of year donation?

Give the gift of...

CONSERVATION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

\$200 can help purchase acid-free tissue paper which helps conserve our archives and artefacts from deterioration over time.

WOMEN'S HISTORY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Donate to help us publish a book on the Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake, set to be released in 2019! Our fundraising goal is \$3,000.

EDUCATION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Donate to the Tiny Museum project! The Museum currently lacks proper programming space, and until we expand, it is difficult for us to provide programming to local schools. With limited resources and funding, schools are no longer able to coordinate field trips. To solve these issues, we plan on bringing the Museum to them, with the Tiny Museum! In 2019, we're planning to build the Tiny Museum (grants are pending) and then begin developing educational programs! We're looking to raise **\$124,000** for the Tiny Museum's construction.

Unfortunately, a large, infected ash tree had to be removed from the front yard of the Museum. However, we have planted a new one in its place! Thanks to a donation from Janet James, in memory of her late husband and former Society President, Kelly James, we now have a flowering dogwood in front of the Museum!



NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

THE 2018
Phoenix Soiree &
THE EXHIBITION OPENING OF
Painting
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



DECEMBER 1, 2018 7PM TO 9PM	RSVP BY NOVEMBER 23 905-468-3912 CONTACT@NHSM.CA
--------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------

HORS D'OEUVRES & REFRESHMENTS
THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you are an annual member and have not renewed your membership for 2019, a renewal form is included with your newsletter. Please take the time to fill out the form and return it to us at your earliest convenience.

Reminder: 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.

Our annual wine raffle will take place at this event. Don't forget to buy your tickets to win one of two large wine prizes (approximately 20 bottles for 2nd prize and 30 for first prize!). Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and can be purchased at the Museum or from one of our Board members.



Painting

Niagara-on-the-Lake

On display at the Niagara Historical Museum

NOVEMBER 27, 2018
to MAY 4, 2019

President's Message

David Hemmings, Society President

Happy Holidays! Celebrate the year that has been and look forward to the possibilities!

We now have the prospect of a Council with keen interest in Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage, cultural landscape and resident participation in the affairs of local government. For the Historical Society, with its focus on the community and cultural events, the possibilities for engagement and education have increased considerably. It is important to celebrate where we are and where we are going. In late September we unveiled the two new plaques remembering the 5,000+ British Home Children who came to Canada through Our Western Home in Rye Park. Information on these children is now available electronically at the Museum. In early November the Town opened its Voices of Freedom Park on Regent Street with a superb opening ceremony. In the coming year, we are hopeful that our Tiny Museum will be built and begin its life as an outreach tool for enhanced local history education at schools and other social groups in the municipality. The prospective extension of exhibition space, storage and access for the Museum is now getting particular attention in the community as our architectural firm, Lynch+Comisso moves towards completion of the required as-built design documents. This will have to include an integrity check on the oldest purpose-built museum in Ontario – Memorial Hall.

We are excited that our Managing Director has had her third daughter in November. In the meanwhile our extraordinary staff, led by Amy Klassen, continue to deliver exciting exhibits and events over the coming winter period. The Museum will be closed for a couple of weeks at Christmas, but open again in the New Year. Over the last year our Staff have made numerous improvements to our governance documents, bringing them up-to-date with new legislation and enhancing our operations and Board participation. The Board is also investigating alternative models of funding, planned giving and legacy funding, as well as the prospect of funding for the proposed new extension to the Museum.

In particular, I thank all our members. The Society and its strength is through all of you. Our love of history and this cultural landscape in Niagara-on-the-Lake is what attracts us to live here. We are a community of history lovers with a vision of moving forward. Tomorrow's history is what we live today. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our Theatrical Cemetery Tours moved to a new location this year! Participants got a chance to meet some of the people buried at St. Andrew's Cemetery played by our talented and hardworking volunteers. Picture left to right are: Rick Meloen and Judy Thornton as John & Mary Crooks; Briar Collins as Kate McIntyre; Denise Ascenzo as Catherine Creed; Pam Mundy as Janet Carnochan; Joe Cassidy as Joseph Barr; Tom & Jane Catcher as James & Elizabeth Cooper, Steve Steele as the Gravedigger and Geoff Senson as Hugh Hutchinson. Thanks to Babs Worthy for a fantastic script as always!



2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the AGM on October 11th, we welcomed new Board Members Paul Harber, Gill Mukkar and Jim McArthur, all of whom bring with them a wealth of experience. We said goodbye to Lorraine Joyner and Suzanne Hebert who were finished their terms. We thank our outgoing Board for their dedication to the Society and for making sure we were always moving in the right direction.

Our President, Faith Bell, also finished her term and will now serve as Past President. Faith did a wonderful job guiding us through the last three years and brought some great strategic ideas to the Society. David Hemmings will now serve as Society President and we look forward to having him at the helm.

We presented our Honourary Life Member award to Nancy Butler this year. Nancy has been researching and preserving Niagara-on-the-Lake's history since moving here in the 1980s and is a Past President of the Society. We thank her for her support over the years and for the many volunteer hours she has given in the community.

For a full version of the minutes from the 2018 Annual General Meeting, please visit our website at www.niagarahistorical.museum under the "Get Involved" tab.

Pictured above: Nancy Butler and Faith Bell.



Artist Spotlight: Betty Lane (1907-1996)

One of the featured artists in our new exhibition, *Painting Niagara-on-the-Lake*, is Betty Lane. The exhibit contains a large collection of Betty's work, many of which were recently donated to the Museum by her son.

As a child, Betty was encouraged by her parents to pursue her artistic skills. She studied in Paris at the age of 21 and was recognized early on for her talent. She was funded by millionaire art patron Duncan Phillips, and it was in his gallery in Washington DC where famed artist Henri Matisse took notice of her work. In particular, he remarked on one titled "The Walls".



Betty moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in the 1940s with her husband, Gerald Noxon, and son, Nicolas. The family lived in the William Kirby home at 130 Front Street. Her son recalled exploring the countryside together and, at one time, seeing German prisoners of war who were used as labourers. She was inspired by the raw beauty of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the countryside, creating and selling many scenes of the Forts, the lake and the community. Betty eventually moved to Cape Cod where she spent the rest of her life as a painter and musician.

Painting Niagara-on-the-Lake features artwork for the Museum's collection, as well as some private loans, that depict the landscapes and built heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Come see the display until May 4, 2019!

CURATOR'S CORNER *with Shawna Butts, Acting Curator*

The Museum has had some fantastic items donated to the collection in 2018. We have another one that I cannot wait to share with you all in the New Year! Thank you again to all of our 2018 donors.

New Acquisition—The Windeyer Collection

Lieutenant Colonel Richard C. Windeyer had a very rich military career. He joined the 36th (Peel) Regiment in 1890 and advanced through the ranks quite quickly, as evident in the military commissions and certifications now in the Museum's collection. Each year Windeyer would accompany the 36th to Niagara Camp to attend the summer militia camp.

During the First World War, Windeyer was appointed the Commanding Officer of the 74th Battalion, and for a time he was Commandant of Niagara Camp. When Windeyer was asked if the 74th was ready for the front, he said it all depended upon what front they were going to and what kind of warfare they would have to take part in. "My men have entered into every phase of training, but we have not had sufficient field work during the winter owing to the weather. The trek [The Great Trek] from Niagara was a splendid experience for the men, they got a taste of the real thing in movement on a large scale, and the surprise attacks kept the interest alert all the time."

In this donation is Windeyer's trunk which has a unique family story. The 74th was set to deploy for Europe on March 29, 1916, but Richard never left. He was all set to go, his trunk was onboard the ship, when he was called back to Headquarters in Toronto. The trunk made the journey to Europe without him.

Richard stayed behind and continued working at Niagara Camp. In a series of letters written to his daughter—which are always addressed My Dear Little Girl—he talks about how his new job (as Commandant) keeps him busy. He also describes many aspects of camp life and training that the soldiers underwent such as the simulation of trench conditions on the front, which included subjecting them to flares and "bombs".

As I write this article in the days leading up to the centenary of the First World War's armistice, I am further reminded that no amount of training could have prepared the men and women for what lay ahead in Europe.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them- For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon

74th Overseas Battalion-Canadian Expeditionary Force Niagara Camp-1915.



Volunteers Wanted:

We are looking for volunteers to assist with transcribing some oral history interviews we have compiled over the last couple years. If you think you are interested in helping with this project, please contact the Museum. This task involves listening to interviews and typing in Microsoft Word, and it can be done at the Museum or at your own home.

From the Acting Managing Director

It's a girl! Our Managing Director, Sarah Kaufman, welcomed a third daughter to the family on November 3rd. We wish Sarah all the best while she spends time with her family over the next 10 months and look forward to her return in September 2019.

I am always amazed when we get to the end of the year and look back at all we have accomplished with our staff, Board and tremendous volunteers. Although the summer is always jammed packed, this fall was particularly busy with our successful Niagara Polo event, St. Davids Heritage Day, our popular Theatrical Cemetery Tours, the final lecture of the 2018 series, a plaque unveiling in Rye Park and a special First World War weekend program with the Shaw Festival. And that was just September!

In October, I attended the Ontario Museum Association (OMA) annual conference and presented one of the sessions with Adrian Petry from the St. Catharines Museum. The theme of the conference was all about collaboration, which is something we are always striving to do in our community. We are working together with a committee of the Town on Black History educational programming and a walking tour app to accompany the new Voices of Freedom Park. We also created a new partnership with St. Andrew's Church, bringing our cemetery tours to their property this year. They invited us to join their 225th Anniversary Committee and we are working with them on ways to celebrate the history of the church and the impact of its congregation on the heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2019. These community collaborations make all of our organizations stronger and create opportunities for new ideas and growth.

Just after Remembrance Day, we closed our year-long exhibit on Camp Kosciuszko. I heard so many times over the last year from visitors who said they knew nothing about this history and that it was such a unique story. We were honoured to host Polish groups on a number of occasions, including dignitaries who were so thankful that we were preserving their county's history through this exhibit. We love hearing that our Museum is impacting our visitors!

From June to the end of October, we had a series of pop-up exhibits around the community thanks to funding from the Niagara Region. These exhibits were found at Meridian Credit Union, Ravine Vineyard, Laura Secord Homestead, the Chamber of Commerce and the Shaw Festival's Studio Theatre. This project enabled us to highlight the history of the villages, bring awareness to the Museum and our collection, and reach a much larger audience.

We hope to see you all at our final event of the year on December 1st. We have combined the annual Phoenix Soiree with a launch of the new exhibition *Painting Niagara-on-the-Lake*. This is a free event for members and an introduction to our new display, which features artwork from our collection as well as private collections.



I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and look forward to taking on the role of Managing Director during Sarah's leave. In 2019, we will be working on building a strong relationship with our new Town Council, continuing work on the architectural plans and fundraising initiatives for the expansion, and developing new programs to accompany our summer exhibition. Remember that if you have questions about the collection and exhibitions, our Assistant Curator, Shawna Butts, is now Acting Curator while Sarah is away. We are both here to help in any way we can!

- Amy Klassen

One of our pop-up exhibits at the Chamber of Commerce

Niagara Historical Society & Museum

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Hemmings, President
Faith Bell, Past President
Ron Dale, VP Museum
Denise Ascenzo, VP Society
Mona Babin, Treasurer
Ted Rumble, Secretary
John Sayers
Chris Pratt
Jim McArthur
Gill Mukkar
Paul Harber

HONORARY LIFE SUPPORTERS

Joy Ormsby
Dr. Richard Merritt
Christopher Allen
Robert Knight
Nancy Butler

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



CONTACT US

43 Castlereagh Street, PO Box 208
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0
Phone: 905-468-3912 | Fax: 905-468-1728
contact@nhsm.ca

Visit us at www.niagarahistorical.museum



/NHSMuseum



@NHS_Museum

MUSEUM STAFF

Sarah Maloney Kaufman
Managing Director
skaufman@nhsm.ca

Amy Klassen, Society Administrator
aklassen@nhsm.ca

Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator
sbutts@nhsm.ca

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, Closed December 18 - 31



NHS MISSION STATEMENT

We are a team of staff & volunteers which passionately collects, preserves, researches, educates and promotes the history of Niagara-on-the-lake and its communities. We inspire an appreciation of local history through engaging programs and exhibitions.

www.niagarahistorical.museum