



MUSEUM Chronicles

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 14-18: March Break Culture Camp
- March 17: Lecture 7:30 pm
- March 20: Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- March 30: WWII Lecture, 10:30 am
- April 13: WWII Lecture, 10:30 am
- April 14: Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
- April 15: Last day of *Life Under Canvas*
- April 17: Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- April 21: Lecture 7:30 pm
- May 1: *Janet's Gems* opens
- May 15: Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- May 18: WWII Lecture, 10:30 am; International Museums Day (free admission)
- May 19: Lecture 7:30 pm
- May 20: Heritage Cruise fundraiser

Niagara Historical
SOCIETY  MUSEUM

RAISING FUNDS TO PRESERVE OUR HISTOY



The 2015 Phoenix Dinner was a great success, raising \$5,000 towards the ongoing care of our buildings and collection. Thank you to everyone to attended the event, donated to the silent auction and purchased auction items.

A special thanks to our event sponsors OLiv, Caroline Cellars and Jackson-Triggs, to Music Niagara for providing the amazing Emma Meinrenken (pictured above) and her accompanist Ben Smith, and to our MCs Barbara Worthy and David Murray who set the First World War theme. Finally, a huge thank you to the volunteers who helped plan the evening and decorate for the event. Memorial Hall looked stunning for a holiday dinner at Niagara Camp!

Looking forward to 2016, the Society has partnered with local volunteers to bring **back "The Sport of Kings" to Niagara-on-the-Lake!** This event will be a huge undertaking and will require a lot of volunteer help on event day. If you are interested in assisting on Saturday, September 10th, please contact Amy at the Museum. There are a number of VIP and corporate packages available and general admission tickets will be available online soon. Stay tuned for more details about NIAGARA POLO over the coming months!

NIAGARA POLO



Saturday, September 10, 2016

happening at the museum

EXHIBITIONS

LIFE UNDER CANVAS:
Niagara Camp 1915-1919
April 15, 2015 - April 15, 2016

An exhibition commemorating the First World War training grounds in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

JANET'S GEMS

May 1 - October 31, 2016



Celebrating 120 years of collecting with some of **the Museum's earliest acquisitions and a look** at how the face of museums have changed since the end of the 19th century.

DEAR SADIE:

Loves, Lives and Remembrance from
Ontario's First World War
February - April, 2016

A travelling exhibit from the Archives of Ontario.
On display in upper Memorial Hall.

LECTURE SERIES

We celebrate 120 years of our collection by looking at the foundation of our Society and Museum, other early museums and the importance of collecting.

MARCH 17 | SUZANNE MOASE
Canada's First Museum: The Thomas Barnett Collection

APRIL 21 | JONATHAN WISE
Past Lives: Early Collections of the Canadian Museum of History

MAY 19 | JESSICA CLARK
Buying Beauty in the Nineteenth Century

JUNE 16 | SARAH KAUFMAN
Memorial Hall: Niagara's Own Cabinet of Curiosities

JULY 21 | CECILIA MORGAN
Loving History, Loving Niagara:
Janet Carnochan, 1839-1926

AUGUST 18 | MICHELLE HAMILTON
Dr. Oronhyatekha: Memory and Legacy

SEPTEMBER 15 | NICHOLAS CLEMENS
ROM Wasn't Built in a Day

Tickets are \$10 or free for Niagara Historical Society Members. Reservations required as seating is limited. Lectures start at 7:30 p.m.

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NIAGARA - ON - THE - LAKE


NIAGARA'S FINEST
HOTELS
HARBOUR HOUSE • THE CHARLES • SHAW CLUB
The name of history is the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake



Heritage Cruise
along the Niagara River

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016
Boat boards in Queenston at 2:30 pm
Cruise from 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Join us on the **Niagara Belle** for an exclusive heritage cruise along the Niagara River from Queenston to Lake Ontario, with five historic narrators to interpret the history of Niagara, the river and the lake.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE - \$80
Includes light hors d'oeuvres
Cash bar, silent auction and more!

Niagara Historical Society Museum | The Friends of Fort George

For tickets and information please contact the Niagara Historical Society at 905-468-3912 or the Friends of Fort George at 905-468-6621.
WWW.NIAGARAHISTORICAL.MUSEUM | WWW.FRIENDSOFFORTGEORGE.CA

FAMOUS & INFAMOUS

Join us each month for a presentation and lively discussion about the life and times of a famous or infamous person from the past. Free, starts at 2 pm.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| March 20 | Roald Amundsen |
| April 17 | Catharine the Great [Part 2 of 3] |
| May 15 | Lysenko |
| June 19 | Baldour Steffanson |
| July 17 | Agatha Christie |
| August 21 | Max Aitken [Lord Beaverbrook] |
| September 18 | J.C.R. 'Lick' Lickliger |
| October 16 | William Hamilton Merritt |
| November 20 | Albert Speer [Part 2] |

MILITARY TALKS: CANADIAN BATTLES IN WWII

A series of lectures presented by LCol Ed Rayment. Admission is \$10 or free for Historical Society members.

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| March 30 | Holding Juno |
| April 13 | Breakout from Normandy |
| May 18 | Dieppe - The Truth |

LECTURES START AT 10:30 AM



FIRST FRIDAYS: "DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE"

Friday, June 3 | 7 - 10 pm

Part of a series of events at 7 different historic sites throughout the Niagara Region. Join us for an Alice in Wonderland-themed party with live music, fun activities, **and food and drink by Smokin' Buddha.** Admission \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

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Tallman, Craig & Sue
Tenbrook, Suzanne Wilt
Torrance, Margaret
Verweij, Jos & Kate
Wallace, Ross
Whitelaw, Tom

New Life Members

Burtniak, John
Davey, A.B.C.
Gitelman, Bruce
Jago, Faith

Memoriam

Merritt, Richard in memory of
Robert Waugh

In Kind

Ascenzo, Denise
Asquith, Lillian
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Bell, David & Faith
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Collection

Allen, Chris
Allen, James
Baraniecki, Roman
Bradley, Hope
Bromley, Martin
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Clement, Marjorie
Cowie, Bill
Dobrzensky, Margaret
Greaves, David
Grinberg, Eddie
Howse, Al

Hunter, Doug
Kawka, Andrew
Knight, Bob
Lailey, David
Merritt, Richard
Nogas, Fred & Val
Pifher, Ken & Eleanor
Quinn, Blanche
Redekop, Debbie
Sayers, John & Judith
Shaw, Catherine Elliot
Skinner, Cynthia
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Taylor, Marnie
Tranter, Lorna
Wheeler, Brian

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Niagara Historical
Society & Museum



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Bob Augustine



In January we sadly lost a wonderful member and dedicated volunteer. Bob Augustine contributed many hours of

his time and talent to the Museum since becoming involved in 2011. He was a researcher, a walking tour guide, and most notably, an actor in our popular Theatrical Cemetery Tours. Many members and locals enjoyed watching Bob play different characters from our past, and we benefited from his vast knowledge **of history. We will miss Bob's kind heart and his clever wit. Our deepest condolences to all of Bob's family and friends.**

From the Managing Director

Gosh, have I missed my wonderful Museum Family! Thank you for all **your well wishes. I know I've been gone on maternity leave but I** honestly feel like I never left. Amy did an amazing job stepping up as Acting Manager and Tami took over the Curator and Collections duties wonderfully! Their hard work has made my transition back very smooth!

I'm looking forward to working hard on several projects in 2016. I'll be starting off with the Janet's Gems exhibition which will focus on the Society's early collection and salute 120 years since we started collecting in the Queen Street courthouse in 1896.

One of the important objectives put forth by the Society was to move **forward with the capital projects recommended in the "Lord Report". I'm anxious to start working, on your behalf, to get this project moving.** These are exciting times to be a part of the Society!

On April 14th **we'll be recognizing the hard work of our amazing volunteers with a luncheon. I'm anxious to see familiar faces and hear all about your accomplishments over the past year. Make sure to reserve a spot as seating is limited.**

- Sarah Maloney Kaufman

Memories of the Turntable

The following is a letter written to the Advance several years ago by Leonard Keith, who shares his memories of the railroad turntable. It was submitted by his granddaughter, Janine Horton, a Society member living in British Columbia:

The pump house floor and foundation is on the river side of the road opposite the turntable. It is easily identified by the two raised portions of concrete. A large square one that held the vertical boiler and a smaller rectangular for the steam pump. (this may now be private property) Steam locomotives had a fabulous thirst and a good supply of water was essential. The purpose of the pump house was to pump water from the river to a water tank that was located diagonally from the pump and north of the Turntable. The tank was a wooden structure similar to hundreds of tanks of that period. It was demolished with the turntable and no trace remains.



The roundhouse (engine shed) was located just past Lockhart Street on a direct line from the turntable. The concrete of cinder pit should still be there, but may take some scraping to locate. If memory serves me correctly the walls were quite thick, maybe 18 inches or more.

The main line was on an embankment that sloped gradually from Ricardo St. to the dock area. The station backed onto the CSL dock and faced the marina (slip). There were at least two sets of tracks at this point.

When the passenger train arrived in the early evening, it stopped at a switch near the culvert. The switch was opened to permit the engine to go onto a siding to the turntable. The train brakes were applied to the coaches, the engine uncoupled and moved through the switch to the siding. As soon as the engine cleared the switch it was closed and the train brakes were reloaded allowing the coaches to coast down the grade to the station where the brakes were applied. To stop the coaches at the platform. The engine moved along to the standpipe (also on the siding) to top up its water supply, then onto the turntable. After some jockeying to balance the table it was turned by hand through 90 degrees to face the river. This put it on line with the track to the roundhouse. Then it was backed into the structure where it spent the night in the care of the watchman. His duty was to keep the fire burning and ensure that there was always sufficient water in the boiler. No doubt he had other duties, but as a child I was not aware of them.

In the morning the procedure was repeated, the engine placed on the turntable, another 90 degree turn, a stop for more water, up to the switch, onto the main line, then back down for the coaches, and out of town to Niagara Falls and Buffalo.

I might add that the wise housewife waited until the train left before hanging her sheets on the line. If the engineer spun the wheels on take off, a shower of black soot descended on the neighbourhood, resulting in polka dot sheets. So much for memories, thanks for letting me share them.

P.S. The passenger service was discontinued in 1925.

I was born and raised at 115 Delatre St. My father worked as a fireman and later as an engineer for the New York Central. The railroad was not only a neighbour, it was part of our family.

Leonard Keith (1917-2001) was born in Niagara-on-the-Lake and served overseas in WWII as a wireless operator for the R.C.A.F. Pictured above is Leonard's father Edward Keith (1891-1961).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Faith Bell

Spring is coming and there is much to be looking forward to at the Museum. We welcome back Sarah Kaufman from her maternity leave. During Sarah's leave, Tami Daoust did an excellent job as our Curator. We thank her for her contributions and wish her the best in her new job at the Welland Museum. Our special thanks to Amy Klassen who stepped up and ably handled the responsibilities of Acting Managing Director. We have all had a year of growth and development and I look forward to working with the capable team of Amy and Sarah.

Looking ahead, we will be moving forward following the guidelines of the Lord Report and our Strategic Plan. The Lord Report, which was presented and accepted by our membership last year, has provided us a good understanding of the direction we need to grow. Currently we are increasing our presence in the community through collaboration with the Town and the local Cultural and Cultural Heritage organizations. We are keeping our eye on the development of a Cultural Strategy Plan to be referenced by the Town's Official Plan as suggested by the Ontario government. We are also working with the Friends of Fort George on the Heritage Cruise and hosting Niagara Polo on September 10th. Stay tuned for additional initiatives in the future.

We need to make residents aware of all the services we provide to the Town on a daily basis. Most importantly, we need to become self-sufficient and able to sustain our historic museum. Your board is committed to working through the recommendations of the Lord Report toward the expansion of this Museum and I am certain that with the creation of a strong firm base, we will be ready to face that challenge.

PORTICO RESTORATION



The portico on Memorial Hall is getting some much-needed restoration work!

Thanks to funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, work will begin in June to secure the hollow columns, remove the concrete blocks that are not original to the structure, and repair rot and damage.

What a perfect way to honour 110 years since construction began in 1906!

MARCH BREAK CULTURE CAMP

From March 14-18, the Museum is partnering with the Niagara Pumphouse to offer a "March Break Culture Camp". Children will participate in historically and culturally themed activities in the morning at the Museum and spend the afternoon exploring a variety of art and art-related activities at the Pumphouse! This program is generously sponsored in part by the Niagara Community Foundation.



Niagara Historical Society & Museum

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Visit us at www.niagarahistorical.museum



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MUSEUM STAFF

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Mary Alice Hanson - Educational Programmer
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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 Year's Eve.



www.niagarahistorical.museum