



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **December 1 & 2:** Rotary Holiday House Tour, Museum open 10 am to 5 pm
- ◆ **December 6:** Members Exhibition Launch, 4-6 pm
- ◆ **December 9:** Santa Claus Parade, 11 am (look for the Tiny Museum!)
- ◆ **December 18—January 1:** Museum closed for the holidays
- ◆ **January 22:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **January 24:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ◆ **January 31:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ◆ **February 2:** Doc Club, 10 am
- ◆ **February 7:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ◆ **February 14:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ◆ **February 21:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ◆ **February 26:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **February 28:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am

Special thank you to our
Corporate Sponsors:

Niagara HOLIDAY
RENTALS

RAVINE VINEYARD
ESTATE WINERY

Poppies Up, Down, Rolled and Wrapped.

This year 7,000 poppies were seen in outstanding original displays at three locations in Niagara-on-the-Lake: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 124 on King Street, the NOTL Courthouse on Queen Street, here at the Museum on Castlereagh Street, and more than 30 wreaths were displayed by businesses on Queen Street. Purple poppies were also seen on two Sentineal Carriage horses, proudly reminding everyone of the contribution made by these amazing animals in both world wars.

More than 40 volunteers have sewn, knitted, crocheted, and become experts at this astonishing project, joining communities across the country in remembrance of their veterans. It continues to inspire and challenge everyone. And it requires stamina. Not only have many hands been working for more than a thousand hours, but also when it comes to packing and storing the giant nets, the Poppy Brigaders face a full work out. Many knees and backs feel the pressure, and no doubt a few painkillers helped the process.

None of this would be possible without the community contribution of Davey Tree Service. The crews are generous, pay attention to every detail, and nothing is too much to ask of them. We send them full kudos for their huge donation of time. And to the Town, and all our many spectators, we say Thank You, for encouraging this project, and for showing veterans, their families, and our community, that we do not forget. Ever.



Photos: Installing the poppies at the Museum and the Court House; Poppies all laid out to dry.



happening at the museum



FAMOUS & INFAMOUS:

Biography Discussion Group | 2 pm | Free for all

Date	Speaker	Subject
Jan 22	Diane Kendall	Mary Queen of Scots
Feb 26	Craig Tallman	Philip II
Mar 25	Alex Topps	Thomas Baker McQuesten
Apr 22	Sheila Hill	Wright Brothers
May 27	Gus Calderone	Leopold and Loeb
Jun 24	Victoria Wisdom	Cleopatra
Jul 22	Richard James	Michael Collins
Aug 26	Robert Troutbeck	Ned Kelly
Sep 23	Suzanne Hebert	Alexandre Dumas
Oct 28	Judy Thornton	Shakespeare
Nov 25	Peter Kemball	Elliot Jaques

VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL

Date	Time	Speaker	Topic
Jan 24	11 am	Debra Antoncic	The History of Portraiture
Jan 31	11 am	Sonya de Lazzer	Selfie Culture
Feb 7	11 am	Julian Sher	The North Star: Canada and the Civil War Plots Against Lincoln
Feb 14	11 am	Ted Rumble	Ordnance Boundary Updates & Restoration
Feb 21	11 am	SPEAKER TBC	
Feb 28	11 am	Shawna Butts	Historically Hysterical 2

IN-PERSON LECTURE SERIES

Date	Time	Speaker	Topic
Mar 21	7:30 pm	Dr. Brian Pihack	The Solar Eclipse
Apr 18	7:30 pm	John B. Lee	"Is Newark Burning: the politics of fire during the War of 1812-- a story too complicated to tell"
May 16	7:30 pm	Adam Shoalts	Adventures
Jun 20	7:30 pm	Richard Merritt	The Wilderness
Jul 18	7:30 pm	Brian Marshall	240 Centre Street
Aug 15	7:30 pm	David Hemmings	Early Virgil Homes
Sep 19	7:30 pm	SPEAKER TBC	

Doc Club 2024

Our Doc Series returns in February, to challenge everyone with docs that inspire, educate and entertain. The films are not yet chosen but put these dates in your calendar. To sign up for the Zoom discussions, email Babs: bworthy@nhsm.ca

Dates (films to be announced in Jan):

- Friday February 2:** Black History Month
- Friday March 1:** Women's Month
- Friday March 8:** International Women's Day
- Friday April 5**
- Friday May 3**

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Museum will be closed from **December 18 to January 1** for the holidays. Staff will check email and voicemail periodically. Please contact us by email should you need assistance.

NEW EXHIBITION OPENS DEC 1



You are invited to the opening of

STRIKE A POSE:

The Art of Self-Obsession

Do those gosh darn selfie-takers irritate you? While you may not be alone in your thinking, we hope that our next exhibition shows you that the idea of capturing the self hasn't changed much in hundreds of years. Our next exhibition, *Strike A Pose: The Art of Self-Obsession* opens December 1st and explores how the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake have documented themselves in order to leave their mark on the world and to chronicle their lives.

We are very excited that the local business, Selfie Mode, has come forward as a sponsor and will set up a selfie station for the duration of this exhibition. You will be able to take your own selfies and then choose to have them printed, so that you can be a part of our exhibit!

- Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator



DEC 6
4 - 6 PM

RSVP by December 1st to
aklassen@nhsm.ca.

Generously sponsored by:  Selfie Mode



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

This year for volunteer appreciation, we decided to offer two opportunities for volunteers to visit other cultural institutions by bus. With generous funding from the Province of Ontario's Community Seniors Grant, we took 40 people to Dundurn Castle and the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) on August 1st. And then on September 19th we took 30 people to the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) in Toronto.

Each day provided our volunteers with an opportunity to learn something new and interact with other like-minded people involved with the Museum.

At Dundurn, we were given tours of their heritage garden and home, and did a cooking workshop in the period kitchen with samples to take home. At the RBG, we enjoyed a boxed lunch on their grounds followed by a special talk by the Curator of Living Collections and a guided tour of some of their garden highlights. At the AGO we had a guided tour of many of their galleries and then we enjoyed lunch at a nearby pub.

We can't possibly say thank you enough to those of you who give so much of your time to the Museum, but we hope programs like this do a little bit to let you know how much you mean to us!

Each year we nominate six of our volunteers for an Ontario Volunteer Service Award for outstanding contributions to the NOTL Museum. The Ontario government recognizes individuals from all over the province who have dedicated outstanding continuous years of service to nonprofits, schools, community centres, hospitals, libraries, and other community associations. In 2023, the following NOTL Museum volunteers were honored for their consecutive years of volunteering:

Richard Merritt: 35 years
David Hemmings: 15 years
Ken Schander: 5 years
Mona Babin: 5 years
Dick Coyne: 5 years
Ted Rumble: 5 years

Congratulations to this year's recipients and thank you to all of our amazing volunteers!

Tiny Museum finishes its first full season!

Designed to bring artefacts from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum’s permanent collection to the public, the Tiny Museum welcomed over 3,700 visitors to 15 events throughout Niagara-on-the-Lake and, in one instance, St. Catharines. In total we introduced four new exhibitions to our rotating schedule including *Through All Eyes*, an exhibition on Indigenous artistry and culture, and exhibitions for St. Davids, Virgil and Queenston. There is also a War of 1812 exhibition in the works that we hope to have ready for next year.

Bringing these exhibitions to the public has been an exciting and engaging experience. There was a recent occurrence that stood out to me. We had two events in November, one at St. Michael Catholic Elementary School, and the other at St. Mark’s church. We displayed *Through All Eyes* to students at St. Michael. At the church, we joined the Music Niagara Festival for their Remembrance Day concert series where we displayed our World War I exhibition, *Life Under Canvas*. We even included some handmade poppies in the exhibit made by our talented volunteers who put together this year’s successful NOTL Poppy Project.

About halfway through the Remembrance Day event, a young student exclaimed from across the churchyard, “I remember you; you came to my school!” This student then grabbed her aunt, her brother, and eventually her parents and ran them over to the Tiny Museum so that she could describe in detail everything she saw in *Through All Eyes* to her family, painting a vivid picture between the two exhibitions. It was clear how eager she was to share her experience and learn more. Her enthusiasm showed me how impactful the Tiny Museum could be.

The 2023 tour wouldn’t have been possible without the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation who funded the 2023 project, our enthusiastic team of staff and volunteers, and the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake who visited the Tiny Museum time and time again. It is hard to believe that the season is ending, but I look forward to seeing how the Tiny Museum continues to grow in the future.

- Karlene Ouellette, Tiny Museum Coordinator

Photos: Students from St. Michael School check out the Tiny Museum; Thank you to our Tiny Museum Coordinator, Karlene. Although her contract is finished she will be continuing to volunteer with us on other projects.



MEET SOME NEW STAFF!



Hello, my name is **Maisie Harrison**! I am a grade 12 student at A.N Myer Secondary School and a lifelong resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake. For the past three months I have been a co-op student at the museum, so Sarah and I thought this would be a great opportunity for me to say hi and introduce myself! In brief, a co-op, at least for high school, is where I take two periods worth of time to shadow at a local business to expand knowledge and interest in a field of work. Since I was about 10 or 12, I have been in love with history and have always seen it as a career choice. This opportunity has allowed me to expand my excitement as I apply for university. Having my co-op at the NOTL Museum has been an absolute dream come true! I have met so many amazing people; staff, members and the amazing volunteers who have been dedicating their time to the museum. Throughout my time so far, I have helped with organizing some photos while the museum gets ready for the new expansion. Most recently I have been learning from Sarah and Shawna about taking down and setting up exhibits and throughout my time will be getting the opportunity to change some of the cases and pictures on the wall in the upstairs gallery. So far, I have

added two posters about Francis Hincks Grainer and a soiree that was held in support of the Irish Potato Famine. I am currently working on some possible pieces for the display cabinets upstairs as well. I hope I get to meet more of you during the rest of my co-op placement!



You may have seen **Peter Wright** driving the Tiny Museum around town this summer and he always got pulled into helping with other jobs: fixing a leaky tap, taking things to the dump, etc. He became so handy to have around that in October we brought him on part-time for ten hours per week as our new Maintenance Coordinator.

In just a couple of months, Peter has already done many small repairs and helped with heavy lifting, electrical and other maintenance. He is really helping us to keep on top of our maintenance so that our heritage buildings remain in working order. We hope with some increased funding from the Town that we can extend his contract permanently.



My name is **Doreen Namayanja**, and I am the Database coordinator at the NOTL Museum. My role includes organizing and maintaining the Museum database and ensuring that all data is accurate, complete, consistent, and accessible, to promote high quality data.

I was hired through the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund to prepare the Museum's collections database (PastPerfect) to transfer to a cloud version for better accessibility.

I verify key data elements like object IDs, location of artifacts, Metadata, among others, which serves as a measure to identify and rectify errors in the database.

This enables me to ensure that collections are accurately documented and data is accessible and reliable for scholarly research, preservation and conservation, educational programs, tourism and exploration, and decision-making, among other purposes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Everyone,

Every October, at our Annual General Meeting, we have a change in Board members. Sitting on this board is a privilege and an honour for anyone. I would like to thank the outgoing members and welcome the new team players.

Outgoing Board members

Ted Rumble joined the board 6 years ago and served as Secretary for a total of 4 years, Treasurer for one year, and Director at large for one year. He is currently the lead for our Famous and Infamous program. He will be missed both on the board and the executive.

Jim McArthur joined the board 5 years ago as a Director at large. Two years ago, Jim took over as Plant and Planning Manager and has been diligent in making sure our building was safe for our staff, volunteers, guests, and visitors. Thanks, Jim for your dedication and support. You will be missed.

George Webber served on the board for 3 years. He served as Vice President and was Chair of the Governance as well as the Membership & Operational Fundraising committees. George's lent his expertise in human resources throughout his tenure. You will be missed at our regular meetings.

Laurie Harley joined our team last year and was the board liaison for our inaugural Heritage Garden Party this past August. Thank you so much for your time and expertise. Laurie leaves the board to focus on other opportunities.

I welcome our new board members Paul Mace, Charley Scrivener, Pauline Miller, and Linda Fritz, and look forward to working with you.

I wish you all a happy holidays. Enjoy spending time with your family and loved ones.

Take care,
Mona Babin, President of the Niagara Historical Society

Membership Renewal:

To all current members, past members, and aspiring members, please note that we are now taking membership renewals for 2024.

We offer a full range of options, from individual memberships to dual households, with a variety of enhanced options. We are happy to receive your memberships online, in person, or through the mail.

Please see full membership options and benefits on our website: <https://www.notlmuseum.ca/members>

Your membership to the Museum is a powerful tool that helps us preserve the rich heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake. We appreciate everyone of you – all 600 + members. Thank you.

Need a gift for that history lover in your life? Why not give the gift of membership to the NOTL Museum!



Ontario Volunteer Service Award Winners with Sarah Kaufman (L-R): Ken Schander, Dick Coyne, Mona Babin, David Hemmings and Richard Merritt. Below Ted Rumble.

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

I am sure you have all heard the news already through the media - local pharmacist and resident, Sean Simpson, will be leading our capital fundraising committee for the expansion and renovation of the Museum! We are so grateful to have him come on board with us and we look forward to working together to ensure Niagara-on-the-Lake has the museum it deserves.

You will start to hear more about the project in the news as we move into a new communication phase. We hope to demonstrate how our excellent Museum is struggling within our current restraints. Anyone who spends time here sees the issues we have:

- Lack of storage space for collections, program equipment, supplies and office/maintenance needs;
- Lack of meeting and conference space to accommodate ourselves, researchers and volunteers;
- And most importantly, the lack of an elevator. An elevator would make our galleries and collections spaces immediately accessible; plus it would make transporting awkward or large objects much safer than using our current stairwells.

These changes are needed so that our Museum can continue to serve the growing needs of our community and our visitors properly. I hope all our members will consider supporting the project to help us reach these goals. Let's give the Museum the tools it needs to play an integral part in the future of our town, and continue to engage residents in our unique history.

I'm happy to announce we have recently hired Peter Wright, as our part-time maintenance person. Peter joined us in October to help staff with the many odd jobs that are required to keep our wonderful heritage buildings safe and functioning, jobs that were previously attempted by myself, with the help of our volunteers. Unfortunately, insurance doesn't cover the work of volunteers, so we hope the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will consider supporting the Museum's annual request so we can keep Peter! Best wishes of the season to everyone.

- Sarah Kaufman

COLLECTIONS CORNER

We are very excited to announce that the St. Mark's Archives and part of the collection have been transferred and moved to the Museum! After decades of caring for the archives and providing research services, Donald Combe and Ann Lindsay decided it was time that these items be moved to the Museum. The research they have collected over the years will be integrated into our research files, which will eventually be scanned and made available digitally to researchers!.

During the summer, Sarah and Shawna packed up boxes of material and with the help of Chris Allan, Peter Wright, and Glenn Smith, moved it here. It was a great practice run for when we have to pack and move everything out of the Museum for our expansion and renovation. Moving forward if anyone wants to donate pain relief ointments, we will gladly accept them!

And don't worry, Donald and Ann haven't officially "retired". They will help us become familiar with the collection, add to it occasionally, and catalogue artefacts into our permanent collection.

- Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mona Babin, President
Alexander Topps, Vice President
Sandra Aversa, Treasurer
Paul Mace, Secretary
Paul Harber
Tim Johnson
Stewart Hall
Ben Buholtz
Linda Fritz
Pauline Miller
Charley Scrivener
Nick Ruller—Town Rep.

HONORARY LIFE SUPPORTERS

Dr. Richard Merritt
Christopher Allen
Robert Knight
Nancy Butler

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Due in January each year
New rates as of January 1, 2022

Individual: \$35
Individual Enhanced: \$50
Dual: \$60
Dual Enhanced: \$85
Student: \$15
Individual Life: \$300
Couple Life: \$500

NHS MISSION STATEMENT

We are a team of staff & volunteers that 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.

CONTACT US: Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum

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STAFF

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Shawna Butts Assistant Curator & Educational Programmer sbutts@nhsm.ca	Barbara Worthy Community Outreach Coordinator bworthy@nhsm.ca

MUSEUM HOURS

MAY TO OCTOBER: 10 AM TO 5 PM DAILY
NOVEMBER TO APRIL: 1 PM TO 5 PM DAILY

The Museum is closed: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, Closed December 18 - 31.

Show your membership card for discounts at our Loyalty Partners



grape escape
wine tours

RAVINE VINEYARD
ESTATE WINERY



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www.notlmuseum.ca