



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **December 4:** Documentary Club discussion, 10 am
- ◆ **December 10:** History in the Vineyard take-out event
- ◆ **December 17:** *Rollin' Down the River* (online)
- ◆ **December 18 - Jan 1:** Museum Closed for the Holidays
- ◆ **February:** Online Trivia Night for Members—date TBD

We are working on plans for more online talks from January - April. Please watch for updates in your email and on our website, or call the Museum in the New Year for details.

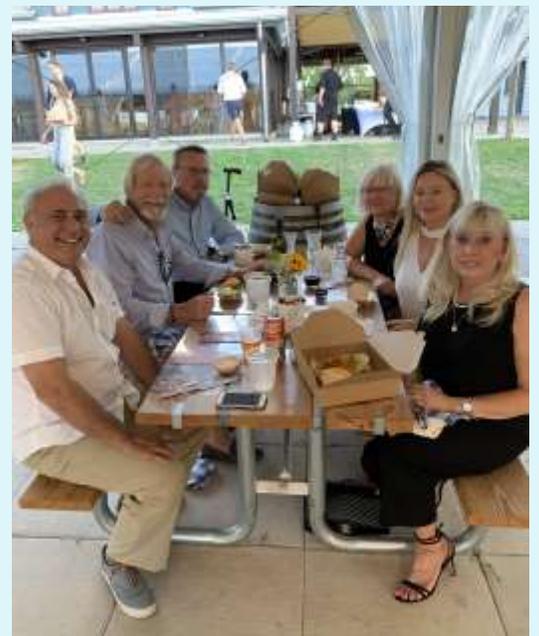
We are monitoring the COVID rules and restrictions to determine when we can resume in-person lectures and other events.

ENJOYING A PICNIC IN THE VINEYARD

On August 31st, we welcomed members, friends and supporters for a picnic under the marquee at beautiful Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery.

Lunch and dinner were catered by Executive Catering Niagara, and the food was outstanding! What a wonderful time to be able to gather safely in the outdoors and take in the incredible agricultural setting of St. Davids.

A huge thank you to Paul Harber and his team at Ravine for donating the space and staff to make this event happen. We raised over \$2000 towards our operations thanks to your generous support.



MUSEUM ORNAMENTS FOR SALE!

We have produced a new Christmas ornament featuring our building! They are \$10 and come boxed, perfect for gift-giving. Get yours in store or online at notlmuseumshop.square.site





ROLLIN' DOWN THE RIVER

A musical story-telling of the role played by the Niagara River in our history. From freedom seekers to whiskey seekers, from bateaux to jet boats.

With funding from the Niagara Region's Niagara Investment in Culture grant, we are working on another musical production that will be available online December 17th, 2020.

Legends and facts of the Niagara River will be told in music and songs: the treacherous crossings of escaped slaves; the life affirming stories of United Empire Loyalists, both Black and White, who crossed the river to safety; the nostalgia of the SS Cayuga and her 15 million passengers from 1906 – 1957; the little-known nefarious stories of smuggling – from William Forsythe 'King of Smuggling' following the War of 1812, to the rum running and whiskey smugglers who used the Niagara River to profit from the effects of prohibition.

Written and directed by Barbara Worthy, the performance features Aaron Berger, Juliet Dunn, Joe Lapinski and Laurel Minnes. Watch for links in your email!



CORRECTION: In the 'We'll Meet Again' virtual concert, James Grant was identified as Donna Ford's grandfather, when in fact he was her Uncle. Babs Worthy would like to apologise to Donna.

DIGITAL PROGRAMS KEEP OUR ANNUAL FAVOURITES ALIVE



COVID-19 has caused many events to be postponed, cancelled, or re-imagined. But the NOTL Museum took up the challenge to 're-imagine', and while it has been challenging, it has also resulted in some unique programming.

Our annual Cemetery Stories, now in its 9th year, became a series of Digital Stories, filmed in the cemetery and at the Museum, always socially distanced Producer Babs Worthy and videographer Joe Lapinski worked with the entire Graveyard Crew, recording ten stories that are now forever available on YouTube through the [NOTL Museum website](#).

The Museum was also the host for Doors Open Niagara 2020 this year. Thirteen places of interest joined the Museum as part of a virtual exploration of local arts, heritage and architectural sites. This time the Museum reached out to Niagara College's Broadcasting Department, and in a new creative community arts partnership under the guidance of Babs Worthy, 13 mini documentaries were produced for each location. These can also be accessed through the [NOTL Museum website](#).

And lastly, working with the Niagara College Broadcast students, our well-loved *We'll Meet Again* concert was also a virtual event. This year the cast were joined by members of the community who shared their own wartime and homefront memories. The show was available for one week on Facebook and YouTube, and received numerous accolades.

So although COVID-19 has seriously affected our lives, community partnerships, creativity, and generous spirits, have enabled the Museum to continue to offer a variety of programming that is, in the words of Richard Merritt, "respectful, thoughtful, educational and entertaining."

- Babs Worthy

(pictured above: recording "We'll Meet Again" with Niagara College)

HISTORY *in the* VINEYARD

A HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT
OF THE FRIENDS OF FORT GEORGE &
THE NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THURS, DECEMBER 10, 2020

Pick up your specially packaged orders
ready to reheat at Ravine Winery from
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Buy 2 orders and receive a
complimentary bottle of Ravine's
Sand & Gravel wine. Plus, watch a
special presentation on YouTube.

MENU CHOICES BY 3 NOTL CHEFS:

Chef Colin Galie of Ravine Winery
Chef David Watt of Garrison House
Chef Ryan Crawford of Ruffino's

TICKETS \$100 PER PERSON

includes a \$40 tax receipt

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Although we haven't been able to welcome back most of our volunteers during the pandemic, there are still a few people who have continued to help us out and keep things going here at the Museum!

A huge thank you to our wonderful garden volunteers who have come twice a month since the spring. Thanks to David Livett, our gardening chair, and to Danny Lummiss and Ken Schander who have kept the grounds looking great!

Recently, our decorating ladies came by to make the outside festive for this holiday season! Check out the beautiful greens put up by Margaret Teare, Peggy Bell, Maybeth Ross, Kathy Humphries, Gail Santsche, Deb Paine, Barbara Webber and Myrna McKay

A new addition can be seen in our permanent exhibition thanks to Vince Biondi. Vince has painstakingly created a diorama of the dock area (pictured below) and donated it to the Museum. He also helped to patch and repaint the exhibition area for us where it has been installed. Next time you're in for a visit, make sure to check it out!

Finally, a big thank you to our Board who are also volunteers and have kept us moving forward through these challenging times!



IT'S IN THE CARDS

WAITING FOR A VACCINE

by John G. Sayers

Here we are in the year 2020 keeping a 'social distance', wearing masks (except for a few of our tourists, perhaps!) and anxiously awaiting the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. This isn't the first time for us here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Carry your thoughts back over a hundred years and the Spanish Flu was at the forefront of everyone's mind. "Aha!", You're thinking, "These soldiers were lined up for a flu vaccine."



Wrong. That wasn't available until a few decades later. These men were lined up at Navy Hall to receive a smallpox vaccine and/or part of the 3-step anti-typhoid vaccine that Richard Merritt describes in his book *Training for Armageddon* as an "important but dreaded" aspect of training at the Camp. [Note that Richard's book is available at the Museum's bookstore.]

The smallpox vaccine was discovered in 1796 by Dr. Edward Jenner, who noted that milkmaids exposed to cowpox didn't succumb to smallpox. So, some 120 years later, these men were being protected from smallpox. And smallpox vaccinations were still mandatory for international travel some 40 years later when my parents took me to visit relatives in England. There is still a very faint scar on my left arm to attest to that requirement.

There is a certain irony about protecting men against smallpox when the Spanish Flu later created such havoc, and the machine guns and artillery shells of the enemy provided even greater risk to life. However, there is the same broader perspective as today. Soldiers carrying smallpox could spread it to the general military community, and later to the civilians of the host country while they were fighting in Europe - the concept we hear described as community spread.

So, we can learn from the past as we cope with the present COVID-19 challenge. Keep safe.

Judith Sayers (jasayers@saybuck.com) has a large collection of postcards of Niagara Camp and Niagara-on-the-Lake which will be shared with you in this series.

2020 Annual General Meeting

At the AGM on October 15th, we welcomed new Board Member Carol Perrin who will be an excellent addition to the board. We said goodbye to John Sayers who has finished his term. A huge thank you to John for his dedication to the Society. We know we will continue to see him around the Museum as a volunteer.

For a full version of the minutes from the 2020 Annual General Meeting, please visit our website at www.nhsm.ca.

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

In a 1976 paper, historian Laura Thatcher Ulrich wrote the line: “Well-behaved women seldom make history”. Years later this line, or a variation of it, was picked up by a savvy entrepreneur and skyrocketed into pop culture on posters, mugs, t-shirts, and the like. At first glance, most interpret the line to say that if you do something outrageous, you will make it into history books. However, Ulrich’s line was inspired by the realization that finding the stories of everyday women is difficult without the availability of resources in our archives or museums. What she believed was that “well-behaved” women, who were crucial to the everyday lives of our communities, should be included in our history books. On October 28th, we welcomed a few members to the opening of our exhibition *Making Her Mark: The Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake*. This exhibition explores the everyday women who made a mark on our community, from courageous environmentalists, heritage activists, artists, scientists, war heroes, teachers, matriarchs, politicians, and professionals. Some of the women featured include Laura Dodson, Sally Carter from the Moseby Riot, “The Hannahs” of Willowbank, Mary Jones, Blanche Quinn and Mary Snider with her fascinating “Servos Collection”. I would love to host an exclusive visit, on a day we are closed to the public, for any members who are uncomfortable in crowds. (Monday, Wednesday or Friday)

At the September Board meeting a new Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce was established. In the current environment with social initiatives such as Truth and Reconciliation, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ organizations and other social/cultural inclusion efforts it is important that we reflect the community within which we exist. This committee will review various aspects of our organization from policy and practices to programs and exhibitions to make recommendations to the Board on ways to improve. We’re currently looking for volunteers to join the committee. If you are interested, please contact me at skaufman@nshm.ca or by calling the Museum.

- Sarah Kaufman

TINY MUSEUM DEVELOPMENTS



Thank you everyone for being so welcoming to me in my first two months at the Museum. If I haven’t met you yet, my name is Amanda Balyk and I’ll be here until September 2021 working on the Tiny Museum school programming. I am excited to be developing several programs for elementary and secondary school students in Niagara. While COVID has put a wrench in plans to get the Tiny Museum in schools this year, planning and developing is in full swing.

A survey went out to local schools in November and responses coming in so far have been positive and promising for the potential of the Tiny Museum when we can eventually bring it to schools.

We’re always looking for more feedback. If you, or someone you know, is a local educator (elementary or secondary), please send me an email at abalyk@nshm.ca and I can provide you with the link to the survey to get your input.

I’m excited to continue building this program to extend the Museum’s outreach into our community.

-Amanda Balyk

F&I Finale

Over 10 years ago David & Elizabeth Murray started a biography discussion group called Famous & Infamous (F&I). First meeting at the library, and eventually moving to the Museum, the purpose of the group was to get people together to discuss famous and infamous people of the past—their accomplishments, their impact on historical events, their atrocities and more. The presentations were led by community members who would choose a person of interest, do their research and then present the life and times of that person.

The group has grown through the leadership of David and Liz (on average about 30 participants each month). The topics discussed have covered an impressive list, from inventors to scientists to dictators to artists and more. The mandate even started to grow to include historical events.

This November was F&I's final session in its current form. The Murrays plan to move out of NOTL in 2021 and we are discussing how we can continue the group in some format. If you know David, he has a presence as the moderator of the discussions that cannot be replaced. And Liz's organization of the series was outstanding.

We want to say a heartfelt thank you to David & Liz for bringing together this truly community-driven program over the years. It has introduced new people to the Museum and recruited new members. You will be missed, not only as the organizers of this program, but as dedicated members of the historical society, volunteers and generous philanthropists in the community.

MAKING HER MARK

Our book about the women of Niagara-on-the-Lake, which complements our current exhibition, has a set release date of early 2021. It features many women who have made a mark on our community. If you are interested in putting your name down on a pre-order list for the book (~\$25/book), please contact the Museum! Until then, here is a sneak peak of a biography from the book.

Anne Helena Woodruff

Anne was born and raised in St. Davids where she attended school and spent a number of years working on her father's farm. She was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church in St. Davids, which opened in 1888, and was a teacher for the Sabbath School.



In 1891, she left St. Davids to live with her sister in the United States. While living there she wrote three children's books, *Betty and Bob* (1903), *The Pond in the Marshy Meadow* (1906) and *Three Boys and a Girl* (1906), which were all set in the community of St. Davids. Although she had no children of her own, her books and involvement in the Sabbath School show that she was fond of them, and perhaps, even fonder of St. Davids.

- Shawna Butts

NEW ACQUISITIONS: The Camp at Niagara

A newspaper clipping featuring a large photo of Niagara Camp has been recently accessioned into our collection. "Camping out" is a mode of training for Cadets that lasts sixteen days and teaches volunteers the basics of being a soldier. The first few days are set aside for battalion drill and rifle practice. The following week, troops are put into battalion and bridge drills, with the last week reserved for division work. The last day, the troops participate in divisional parade for the Adjutant-General showing off the things they have learned over the sixteen days. This newspaper clipping shows the versatility of Niagara, and is a great addition to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's Collection.

- Emma Facca, Curatorial Assistant

EMAILS

If you have not been receiving our weekly e-newsletter, please check your junk mail. We are now using the Mailchimp system which some emails may detect as spam. Please make sure to add the email address to your contact list.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you are an annual member and have not renewed your membership for 2021, 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 a postage fee, we will always have copies available at the Museum.

President's Report

Dear Members,

Last year I noticed that I paid no taxes because my annual charitable contributions, including those close to year end, were high enough to offset whatever taxes I may have otherwise owed. Frankly, this was very satisfying. I am always in favour of supporting a local charity rather than being forced to give my money to the government. We're taxed enough already!

This year I am following this same tax planning strategy. Year-end donations to the Museum are a great way to offset your tax burden. I urge you to give it real consideration as 2020 comes to a close. You may also have friends who could benefit from the same strategy.

The Museum really needs your support and participation financially to enable us to complete our short-term goals of obtaining its expansion building permit and have the funds in hand to apply for important grants for the proposed expansion build. And, as the pandemic continues to rage, our redesign of the Museum's website and more digitization of our fabulous collection of artefacts are also important projects which would significantly benefit from the generosity of our membership.

As members of the Museum, I hope you will consider supporting us at this coming year end. Remember, the essential difference between emotion and reason is that emotion leads to action and reason leads to conclusions.

To all of you, social distancing still allows us to communicate by video or voice with our families around the globe. I wish you all best wishes for the coming Season of giving.

Sincerely
- David Hemmings

In Memoriam

We lost some wonderful members over the past few months. They will be greatly missed at the Museum and in the community.

William (Bill) Fedorkow (August 24, 2020)

Bill Fedorkow and his wife Rosanne were advocates for heritage preservation in Niagara-on-the-Lake and supported the historical society for many years. In 2012, we were honoured to conduct an oral history interview with Bill so we could capture his memories of growing up in Niagara and working for Canadian Cannery in St. Davids. We thank Bill's family for generously directing donations in his memory to the historical society.

Margaret Torrance (September 8, 2020)

Margaret was a long-time member of the historical society and had a passion for history. Babs Worthy was fortunate to stop by her house in Queenston for chats during isolation this year. She was a sharp observer and commentator of life - erudite, articulate and eager to share her many interests, which included literature, politics and the protection of public broadcasting.

Brian Finora (October 20, 2020)

Along with his wife Monique, Brian could always be seen at Museum events, attending our bus trips, lectures and exhibition openings, or volunteering to fold newsletters. He had a passion for history and learning and shared with us stories about his travels and which museums and historic sites he had visited. Brian was caring and thoughtful, often taking the time to drop off Christmas gifts for the Museum staff each year.

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HONORARY LIFE SUPPORTERS

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

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



MEMBERSHIP DUES

due in January each year

Individual: \$30
Family (household): \$50
Student: \$10
Commercial: \$45
Individual Life: \$300
Couple Life: \$500

CONTACT US: Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum

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.nhsm.ca



@NOTLMuseum

STAFF

Sarah Kaufman

Managing Director/Curator
skaufman@nhsm.ca

Amy Klassen

Director of Finance & Marketing
aklassen@nhsm.ca

Shawna Butts

Assistant Curator &
Educational Programmer
sbutts@nhsm.ca

Barbara Worthy

Visitor & Member
Services Assistant
bworthy@nhsm.ca

MUSEUM HOURS

COVID HOURS: TUES, THUS, SAT & SUN 10 AM - 4:30 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.nhsm.ca