



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **September 4, October 2, November 6 & December 4:** Documentary Club discussions, 11 am
- ◆ **September 30:** Online Cemetery Stories available
- ◆ **October:** "Rollin' Down the River", TBC
- ◆ **October 15:** Online AGM, 4:30 pm
- ◆ **October 24:** Digital Doors Open Niagara-on-the-Lake
- ◆ **October 28:** Members Exhibit Launch (invitation to follow)
- ◆ **November 11:** Online "We'll Meet Again", 7 pm
- ◆ **December 12:** "History at Home", a fundraiser dinner



We want to know your COVID-19 experiences. Call the number below to record your audio diary!

289-719-1918

TINY MUSEUM...BIG UPDATES!

We are very excited to have received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and from the David S. Howes Fund and Vintage Hotels NOTL Community Fund at the Niagara Community Foundation so that we can begin developing the school programs and exhibitions for our Tiny Museum!

You will notice a new face around the Museum in the coming weeks. Amanda Balyk has joined the Museum team as the coordinator of the Tiny Museum project. She will be working to develop the educational programs and exhibitions that will be used with the Tiny Museum at local schools. We are hoping to be able to pilot the program in the New Year, but with COVID-19, we may have to make some adjustments.

We are very excited to get this program up and running! As many of you know space at the Museum is limited, so we are unable to host school groups at our present facility. The Tiny Museum solves these issues by letting us go directly to local schools to give students a unique and creative way to get hands on with history. Who knows, maybe a student's participation with the Tiny Museum will make them want to be a Curator one day!

-Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator & Education Programmer



DOORS OPEN
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

October 24, 2020

A VIRTUAL TOUR THROUGH A SELECTION OF SITES OF
HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

[DOORSOPENONTARIO.ON.CA/EN/NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE](https://doorsopenontario.on.ca/en/niagara-on-the-lake)

happening
at the
museum



NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE SERIES: *All Along the Waterfront*

The lectures from the 2020 series will be rescheduled in 2021.

Generously sponsored by:

GEOFFREY & LORRAINE JOYNER
NIAGARA - ON - THE - LAKE

FAMOUS & INFAMOUS:

Planned & organized by David Murray & Elizabeth Surtees
The 2020 series will be rescheduled for 2021.

Thank You to Our Summer Student Emma!

This summer looked quite different at the Museum and we were only able to take on one student. We are grateful to Emma Facca for helping us through these crazy times and we wish her a wonderful year ahead as she continues her studies. A special thank you to the Government of Canada's **Young Canada Works/ Jeunesse Canada au travail** for funding this position.



Hello! I'm Emma and this summer I had the opportunity to work at the Museum as the Program Assistant. This position allowed me to strengthen my research skills and develop an even greater passion for history.

One of my responsibilities this summer was the creation and development of 'Kid Curator Camp Kits' as an alternative program for kids and parents during COVID-19. We had a great response from the local community as each week was fully booked with 40+ kits.

Another project I worked on this summer was assisting the research, development and creation of exhibitions for the Museum on Google Arts and Culture. This was an amazing project to work on as it opened my eyes to ways museums were adapting during COVID-19.

I assisted the Museum in the Drive-Thru Pig Roast fundraisers, which allowed me to interact with members of the community in safe way. Overall, this summer I was able to learn a lot from working at the Museum and could not have asked for a better experience!

This fall, I am going into my fourth year at Brock University for Concurrent Education with a major in history. I hope to eventually continue my studies at Brock and to complete my Master's in history.



CEMETERY STORIES

Revisit our favourite former residents from eight years of Cemetery Tours in a series of recorded vignettes.

Available online starting

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020



WWW.NHSM.CA

ROLLIN' DOWN THE RIVER

A musical story-telling of the role played by the Niagara River in Niagara's 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 in October (date TBC).

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.

Stay tuned for more details on this production coming soon!



WE'LL MEET AGAIN

NOVEMBER 11 | 7 PM

A virtual concert of wartime songs and readings commemorating the First & Second World Wars. Join in the singing and share in the memories.

Written & Directed by Barbara Worthy
Featuring Patty Jamieson, Gabrielle Jones & Peter Millard
with music by Doug Mundy and Penner Mackay



WATCH FOR LINKS IN YOUR
EMAIL OR CALL 905-468-
3912 FOR INFORMATION

www.nhsm.ca



IT'S IN THE CARDS

A MAN AND HIS DOG – AND HIS CAR by John G. Sayers

We believe this to be a 'local' card. It was purchased at Lakeshore Antiques seven years ago, when we noticed a dealer at the front desk sorting through some recently-acquired post-cards. It helps to be able to read upside-down and we asked to look at the card.

Then we asked the price. He said he hadn't priced them yet, but we asked him to suggest a price and 'the rest is history' as they say. Having come home and found a magnifier, we determined that his shoulder pin said '44'. And looking equally closely, we noted that the license plate was 'ONT 1915'. So we had a date and a military designation. No idea as to the make of the car (there's a challenge for you 'old car' enthusiasts). Lovely dog. We don't know his name ether!



Whenever we find an interesting image that seems to be Niagara Camp, our first consultation is with Niagara Camp and Canadian Military expert Dr. Richard Merritt. He shed some light on the image, as follows:

Great photo. Could be taken at Camp Niagara but not certain. Theoretically any CEF [Canadian Expeditionary Force] soldiers at CN [Camp Niagara] in 1915-16 should not be wearing their old militia regimental numbers but we do know that there were some militiamen still about who for one reason or another had not enlisted. A great find.

But why the car? It's not something that you would bring to camp with you – particularly if you were going from there to be shipped overseas! We can see that the license number is 13472. If...if...records of old license plates and their owners still exist somewhere, perhaps the Ontario Archives, we could find out who the owner was.

A few years afterward we came across a story of the Canal Force, a book published in 2012 by Lieut. Col W. A. Smy, *Guarding Niagara, The Welland Canal Force, 1914-1918*. You can find the book – and a 'first-cousin' photo to this one - online at the Museum's website (nhsm.ca) and when you look at page 175 you'll see an illustration of what appears to be the same car and other men of the 44th Lincoln & Welland Regiment. No dog. Guess he stayed at home that day!

The fear at the time was that German agents or sympathizers might sabotage the Canal, which was a critical shipping and transportation route. Animosity was so great that the town of Berlin, home of many people with German roots, was renamed Kitchener. So the Canal Force was seen as a vital regional protection. And all of this from a postcard! Check out the complete Canal Force story online at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's website.

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.

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

We were very pleased to host the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, Lisa MacLeod, this summer during her tour of several Ontario culture and heritage sites. The Minister enjoyed a tour of the Museum galleries and learning about our collection and our community's history. Her visit included a funding announcement for a number of culture and heritage sites. Part of her announcement included our funding for museum operations through the Community Museum Operating Grant (\$15,355) and the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Seed Grant for the Tiny Museum programming (\$37,800). Afterward, we took the Minister into the Tiny Museum to show off the finished product and promote the program that we will be developing soon. She was very impressed and expressed interest in seeing how it progresses.

COVID19 certainly threw a wrench into our exhibition plans this year! We were planning on launching the 'All Along the Waterfront' display in the spring of 2020 but it was unfortunately delayed. This display will raise awareness and



understanding of how our waterways - the Niagara River and Lake Ontario - shaped the history of our community. We have decided to delay it until the spring of 2021 so that it can be enjoyed by both our community and the summer tourists who come to see our shoreline. This fall, we are planning on launching an exhibition promoting the several significant women in our local history from Molly Brant and Chloe Cooley to Blanche Quinn and Donna Scott OC. We may be a small town but the women who lived here impacted our community in many ways. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Museum to see **"Making Her Mark: The Women of Niagara-on-the-Lake"** October 28th!

- Sarah Kaufman

Board Nominations: *The Niagara Historical Society is currently seeking nominations for the Board of Directors to serve for a three-year term starting October 15, 2020. If you or someone you know would be a good candidate for the Board, please fill out the slip below and return it to the Museum by October 1, 2020.*

NOMINATION FORM FOR SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

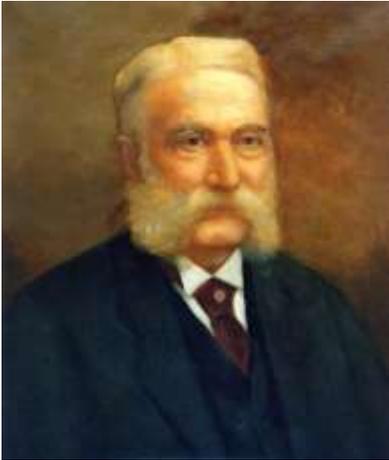
Name of Nominee: _____ Address: _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Address: _____

Seconded _____ Address: _____

I, _____, agree to stand for election to the Board of Directors at the Annual General meeting, October 15, 2020. If elected to the position for which I am nominated, I agree to serve for the term elected. NOMINEES SHOULD INCLUDE A SHORT BIO OR CV WITH THEIR NOMINATION FORM.

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Alexander Whyte Wright
Courtesy: NOTL Museum



Butler House or Wright-Lloyd House
Courtesy: Author



Postcard
Courtesy: Judith Sayers

The Butler or Wright-Lloyd House by David F. Hemmings

In the years after Andrew Butler [1759-1804] inherited from his father, Col. John Butler, a 100-acre lot of which his 2.5-acre property is a part. The original Butler Tract was 550 acres SW of Garrison Line, the old town boundary for Niagara-on-the-Lake. This Butler House [another exists at 285 Simcoe Street], now at 2280 Niagara Stone Road, passed through several hands to Maria Elizabeth Sampson [1818-1856], the wife of John William Ball Esq. who owned Holmhurst farm [on the former Niagara District Secondary School site].

In November 1882, the Balls sold the property to Elizabeth Runciman Simpson [1848-1913], the wife of the illustrious newsman, orator and labor lobbyist Alexander Whyte Wright. Alexander's father was from Glasgow and his mother from Fifeshire, Scotland. For several years he was employed in the woollen and carpet manufacturing industries in Preston and St. Jacobs, Ontario. In 1876 he took charge of the editorial department of the *National* newspaper. Later he withdrew from journalism and became the Secretary of the Manufacturers' Association.

The Wrights added a second storey to the Butler House in the 1880s. When Elizabeth died the property passed to their daughter Annie [1879-1934] who married Walter Edward Hunter, a successful manufacturer's agent. Annie and Wallie had two children – Alexander L. Hunter [1909-1991] and Elizabeth Eleanor (Betty) Hunter [1912-1998]. Both children were raised in the Wright-Lloyd House, and Betty was the last Hunter to live there. It was she who donated the fine portrait of her grandfather to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. After Betty there have been 5 successive owners of the property, the current owners having been in the House since August 1994.

It was likely that Betty's brother Alexander, in 1922 at the age of 12, received the postcard published by the Museum last month. Attributions of artefacts are often difficult to confirm, as museum curators will know. Sometimes it takes a nonagenarian like Doug Hunter from Hunter Road [with thanks] to point out a likely discrepancy. The author of this article apologizes to John & Judith Sayers for necessity to correct the former's misinformation and has researched the more likely recipient of this postcard, as described in this article.

On 30 August 1947 the Lethbridge Herald stated: The labor lobbyist – Alexander W. Wright [1845-1919] – a native of Markham Twp., Ontario, a woollen mill worker and one-time reporter with the Stratford Herald and Guelph Herald, was the man actually responsible for putting Labor Day on Canadian calendars. While working in the United States Wright heard American labor dealers call for an annual holiday. Returning to Canada Wright's prestige and magnetism won him respect of the Dominion's fast-growing union movement. He went to Ottawa, where he

became a lobbyist for labor concessions and persuaded Premier [Sir John] Thompson that it would be both “good politics” and a necessary reform to make the first Monday in September a statutory holiday for labor. A Labor Day parade was held in Toronto in 1885, another at Montreal in the following year and a third in Quebec in 1891. His campaign worked and Sir John piloted the bill [to statutory legislation in 1894] in the face of opposition from both sides of the House.

Sources:

The Joy Ormsby Collection at Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.
John & Judith Sayers Postcard Series in NOTL Museum Updates
Niagara Land Records, St. Catharines, Ontario
Ancestry Genealogical Database
The Scot in British North America, Vol.4, Chapter 8, pp.1136-1137
Dictionary of Canadian Biography: Alexander Whyte Wright

President’s Report: 2020 AGM

Our developed world has changed. Online talks and meetings can really work quite effectively, despite the lack of physical face-to-face persuasion. Working, researching and meeting from home has now proven itself. Despite every meeting being a new experience in these difficult times, we are now more comfortable about running large-audience meetings from our respective home bases. Online AGMs work too! In 2020 we have little choice but to run the Niagara Historical Society/Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum Annual General Meeting remotely. We are simply not yet in a position to welcome 100 people back into Memorial Hall for meetings. As of the time of writing, such a large gathering indoors is not even legal in Ontario.

This year our AGM will be online. We encourage you to become part of our quorum for this meeting at 4:00pm on 15 October 2020. Details on how to join the meeting by video or phone can be found in this newsletter; reports and proposed amendments will be sent to all Members by email prior to the AGM. If you do not use email and would like copies of the reports, please contact Museum staff in advance to pick up copies. The opportunity to vote on motions will still be there, and also to convey your questions through the Chair of the Board on the Q&A box or by “raising your hand”. Slides will be used for the agenda, financials and motions during the meeting. We plan to make the meeting as smoothly run as possible and look forward to your attendance. You will be required to register to gain access to the meeting.

See you there!

- David Hemmings

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: October 15 at 4:00 pm

Come learn about our accomplishments from 2020 and our plans for next year! We will also be voting in a new board member. For a copy of the minutes from the 2019 AGM, please visit our website under the “Get Involved” tab. You can also call the Museum to request a paper copy.

How to participate in the Society’s Online AGM

1. Register to attend the AGM at this address:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ID7DF_-USp2wSTiiSsly1g
2. In the confirmation email, click on the link to join the webinar on October 15th at 4:30 pm. Enter the password that appears in the email.
3. Once you have been allowed into the session, find the “Chat” box on your screen and type your full name in the Chat. This will act as the official attendance.
4. If at any time, you wish to ask a question, type it in the “Q&A” box. If you wish to make a longer comment, you can also click on the “Raise Your Hand” feature which will notify staff to allow you to speak using your computer’s microphone.
5. To move or second a motion, use the “Raise Your Hand” feature. For voting, a poll will appear on the screen on which you will choose “in favour” or “opposed”.

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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