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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Dr. Richard Merritt  
Christopher Allen

**MUSEUM STAFF**

Sarah Maloney - Managing Director  
Amy Klassen – Society Administrator

**Museum Hours**

The Museum is open daily, except for:  
New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday,  
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

May-October: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
November-April: 1 p.m. to 5p.m.

The Society & Museum wish to thank the Town of  
Niagara-on-the-Lake and the  
Province of Ontario for their ongoing support



**Navy Hall Ruins** - This building, what today is known as "Navy Hall" was probably built in 1816: this shows the building in ruins circa 1909. In the 1860's the building was moved from its original site, away from the river. As the story goes, it was moved in order to construct a railway embankment which lead to the dock area. Around 1935 the building was acquired by the Niagara Parks Commission, moved back to its original site, given a copper roof and clad in stone. The "original" building, referred to in a letter written by Mrs. Simcoe was presumably destroyed in the War of 1812. (Written by Terry Boulton)



IMAGES FROM THE NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

Summer 2011 Newsletter

The Year Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY**

On April 27th, we celebrated our annual Volunteer Appreciation Day with a lunch at the Museum. About 40 volunteers were in attendance and enjoyed a light lunch and a presentation on 1812 period clothing and food by Pam Mundy. Volunteers were given a certificate of appreciation and thanked for the numerous hours of time they give us throughout the year.

Without the support and efforts of our volunteers, the Museum would not be able to function. From collections to exhibitions to walking tours to special events to gardening and maintenance, our volunteers are involved in almost every aspect of our operations and we thank them all from the bottom of our hearts.

If you would like to become involved as a volunteer, please contact Amy or Sarah at the Museum.



Pam Mundy



**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- **June 4** - Janet Carnochan Day
- **June 16** - Terry Judd & Robin Patterson Lecture 7:30 pm
- **July 21** - Michael Wallace Lecture 7:30 pm
- **August 18**- Rita Brown Lecture 7:30 pm
- **August 26-28** - Antique Appraisal weekend
- **September 15**- Jackie Maxwell Lecture 7:30 pm
- **September 15** - Shaw exhibition closes

**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

We are currently working on an Oral History project that will allow us to collect some of the stories and memories of individuals who have been in Niagara-on-the-Lake for many years. If you would like to become a volunteer and help with interviews or transcriptions, please contact the Museum.

## FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

In April, our *Niagara on the Eve of War* Virtual Exhibition Coordinator, Helen Bartens, finished her contract. Fortunately, before she left, Helen was able to complete all the research and data entry regarding the Town properties, war compensation claims and biographies of the residents of Niagara prior to the burning of the Town. Now the Museum is waiting for the database designer to finish the framework of the website. When completed, users will be able to look at a virtual map of the Town (c.1810) and click on properties to find out who lived here prior to 1813, read biographies, read their war compensation claim (if available), and see any artefacts related to that individual or property. I am excited to launch this exhibition soon as it will be an excellent resource for researchers and the residents of the Town. It is my hope that the Museum will have the funding to further the project by including the entire Township. Research has begun on this aspect as well.

The Brock Ball is the Museum's key fundraising initiative for 2012. Not only are we hoping to throw an exquisite period style ball, but we are hoping to raise funds for the Museum to support projects such as our 1812 Exhibitions, walking tours,

theatrical presentations and the ball itself. We are also hoping to raise funds to improve our collections security and storage, complete repairs to the Link building basement and to redo the Memorial Hall roof.

During the recent windstorm, the Museum lost several shingles from the High School building and we are hoping to get the roof replaced this year. A few trees were also knocked down in the back, which fell through our neighbour's yard and against the newly acquired barn. We are currently in the process of having that taken care of by a tree service company. Fortunately, the Museum did not sustain any serious damage!



In the Museum's gift shop I'm sure you've seen the beautiful 1812 Art Cards that are for sale. This fall the Museum is fortunate to be displaying several of the original artworks from this collection. Look forward to seeing beautiful paintings that depict Niagara landmarks, historical figures and events from 1812, especially Cameron Porteous' Battle of Queenston Heights set "12 Hours that Saved a Country".

## Janet Carnochan Day

### FREE NHS PUBLICATION

Saturday, **June 4th** is Janet Carnochan Day, the day we celebrate the Museum's founder.

Admission will be free to all for the entire day and visitors can pick up a free copy of Janet Carnochan's publication "Shipwrecked on Sable Island".

This book is the true account of Miss Carnochan's adventure on Sable Island. It was published in 1986 after Janet's manuscript was donated to the Society by a family member. The original manuscript was edited by John Field for the Society.

Please come by the Museum on June 4th for a complimentary copy of this book as we celebrate Janet, founder of the Niagara Historical Society & Museum and one of the best local history collections in Canada.



## 2010 FINANCIAL AUDIT CONTINUED....

<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Fund Balance, end of 2009</u>	<u>Excess of Revenue over Expenditures</u>	<u>Fund Balance, end of 2010</u>
Museum Operations	28,350	34,748	63,098
Society Operations	<u>21,570</u>	<u>4,243</u>	<u>25,813</u>
	<b>49,920</b>	<b>38,991</b>	<b>88,911</b>

Both the Society and the Museum did well financially in 2010. Although it appears that we had a very large surplus, please note that about \$30,400 of the Museum's surplus was brought into the current year because there was grant money received in 2010 that was to be spent in 2011. This would mean that our Unrestricted Fund Balance would actually be \$58,511.

You will notice in the Museum account that there was a significant increase in grants received in 2010 for special projects. These expenses can be seen in Salaries and Exhibition. The "Land costs reimbursement" in the Society account is money that we received back from the Town for severance and zoning fees paid in 2009.

## LIBRARY SERIES - THE FAMOUS & INFAMOUS

THE FAMOUS & INFAMOUS is planned to be an informal but informed discussion on the general theme of the Life & Times of historical personalities, both famous and infamous, who are no longer living.

Each session will be held at the NOTL Public Library on the third Wednesday of each month starting at 3 p.m.

It is hoped each session will be chaired by a different person. That person will give a brief (say, 10 minute) verbal biography of that month's candidate. All attending will be invited to give their perceptions of the

candidate, what may have influenced their lives, their place in history, what may have changed their lives, the fairness or otherwise of history's treatment of the individual. In short: An open discussion for about 60 minutes or as long as the person whose life is being discussed retains the interest of the group.

To provide material to feed the discussion the NOTL Public Library plans to display books relevant to the chosen Famous/Infamous person for one month ahead of each session. For example, books about September's Famous or Infamous person will be on

display at the Library starting mid August.

Attendance is open to anyone, any age, able to read. The Famous/Infamous for each month of the 2011-2012 year will be chosen by those attending the previous month.

**First session:** Wednesday, 15 June 2011

**Subject person:** Mitchell Hepburn [Premier of Ontario, 1934-43]

**Chairman/Presenter:** David Murray

Please contact the Library for a list of potential candidates for discussion.

## 2010 FINANCIAL AUDIT

<b>MUSEUM STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES</b> for the year ended December 31, 2010		
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Municipal Grant	93,740	91,900
Federal/Provincial Grants	129,434	33,294
Admissions & Tours	13,175	14,719
Miscellaneous	<u>6,412</u>	<u>7,138</u>
	<b>147,051</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Staff Salaries & Benefits	137,818	109,344
Exhibition	36,705	3,199
Maintenance	26,207	27,582
Administration	18,685	18,507
Curatorial	7,972	6,880
GST	5,475	3,726
Advertising & Website	3,257	11,959
PST Remitted	<u>611</u>	<u>2,449</u>
	<b>236,730</b>	<b>183,646</b>
<b>NET OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
<b>OVER REVENUE</b>	6,031	(36,595)
<b>INTERFUND TRANSFERS</b>		
From Society Operations	28,717	24,287
<b>NET EXCESS</b>	<b><u>34,748</u></b>	<b><u>(12,308)</u></b>

<b>SOCIETY STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES</b> for the year ended December 31, 2010		
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Fundraising	28,656	28,391
Gift Shop Sales	13,134	13,070
Land costs reimbursement	6,160	-
Memberships	5,665	6,445
Donations	3,515	7,786
Programs & Events	2,065	2,217
Provincial Grant	-	<u>1,215</u>
	<b>59,195</b>	<b>59,124</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Programs & Events	12,485	14,728
Gift Shop Merchandise	6,989	7,380
Land Acquisition Costs	4,206	8,963
Publishing & Education	<u>2,555</u>	<u>5,191</u>
	<b>26,235</b>	<b>36,262</b>
<b>NET OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
<b>OVER REVENUE</b>	32,960	22,862
<b>INTERFUND TRANSFERS</b>		
To Museum Fund	(28,717)	(24,287)
<b>NET EXCESS</b>	<b><u>4,243</u></b>	<b><u>(1,425)</u></b>

For a full copy of the audited financial statements by Bridgman & Durksen, Chartered Accountants, please contact the Museum.

**SAVE THE DATE: Fourth Annual Phoenix Dinner - Saturday, December 3, 2011**

Tickets are \$125 per person. The theme this year is a 1950s Christmas!

Call to reserve your tickets as they sell fast!!

## 1812 WALKING TOURS

As part of the Museum's plans for the 1812 Bicentennial, we have developed walking tours of the town, which will begin this summer! Tours will take place in June, July and August every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 10am and Sundays at 2 pm. Tours will start at the gazebo in Queen's Royal Park and end at the Museum. The cost is \$5 per person and this includes admission to the Museum!!

We are excited to launch our 1812 walking tours this summer and would like to thank the over 20 volunteers who have been training to become guides for this program.

In 2012, our plan is to pair these guides with a theatrical performance that will take place under a tent in the Museum's courtyard. We currently have funding through the Trillium Foundation for the first stage of this project and hopefully will receive second stage funding to produce the program in 2012.



## 2012 BROCK BALL

*"But time shall fondly trace the name of Brock upon the scrolls of fame..."*



On June 16th, 2012, the Niagara Historical Society will be hosting an event that has been 200 years in the making. As part of the bicentennial celebrations commemorating the events of the War of 1812, the Niagara Historical Society presents the 2012 Brock Ball.

Staged on the site of historic Fort George, guests will help recreate the dinner held the evening Sir Isaac Brock and the people of Newark (NOTL) learned that they were at war with their American neighbours. Many of the guests invited on that fateful evening in June 1812 were, in fact, American. The Ball is our signature fundraising initiative for 2012 and is a significant part of the Niagara Region's Opening Events Calendar, marking the commencement of three years of commemoration in Niagara.

Two Hundred Guests and Honoured Dignitaries will enjoy period food, wine, decor and entertainment at this black tie event. Tickets are \$200 per person for this once in a lifetime event. Guests will be encouraged to dress in period costume, although it is not mandatory.

Ticket reservations with me open to Society members first. We know this will be a popular event and already have people wanting to reserve their seats. Starting on June 16th, 2011, one year to the date of the Brock Ball, members are able to call to reserve up to four tickets.

Please call 905-468-3912 or email Amy at amyklassen@niagarahistorical.museum to reserve your tickets on June 16th.

## ANTIQUUE APPRAISAL DAY



The Museum is holding an Antique Appraisal event August 26 - 28, sponsored by **Sotheby's**. Join us Friday August 26th from 6:30 - 9:00 pm for a members-only reception. Tickets are \$20 per person and attendees are able to bring one item for appraisal. The evening will also include a short talk by an appraiser as well as wine and other refreshments.

On Saturday, August 27th, join us for a full day of appraisals from 10 am to 4 pm. The cost for appraisal is \$15 per item or \$10 per item for members (limit 3 items per person).

For those who have large items or collections, appraisers will also be available on Sunday, August 28th for house calls. The cost is \$75 per hour and these visits should be arranged in advance.

Please call the Museum to reserve your space and take part in this exciting weekend!

## CONTRACT STAFF

Although we have a permanent staff of only two, we often have others here on contract through the help of grants and foundations. In April, we had an intern with us from Niagara College for the whole month. Julie-Ann Dzuryk was a Public Relations student who helped plan our Volunteer Appreciation Day, a B&B Open House, helped with our lectures and exhibition launch and also did some administrative tasks such as updating some contact lists and researching ad space for 2012 events.

Starting in May, the **Foundation for Rural Living** is providing us with staffing for fundraising and development. Abby Ramcharan will be with us for several months and will help with sponsorship packages, Phoenix Circle development, planning for the Fourth Annual Phoenix Dinner and completing grant applications.

This summer we will also have a student through the support of the **Young Canada Works** program (Canadian Heritage). Our student will be doing research on World War I and coordinating ideas for exhibitions and projects to celebrate that Centennial in 2014.

Finally, we are in the process of bringing in an international intern from Spain. Sergio Martin Vime contacted us several months ago about an internship program through the Spanish government that allows recent graduates to do international internships in their field. If all the paper work goes through, Sergio will be here working on collections management and other curatorial projects.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In celebration of the 50th season of the Shaw Festival, Bill Schmuck, Designer Director at the Shaw, has developed an multi-media exhibition that will be on display at the Museum until September 15th, 2011. We were pleased to see many members out for the exhibit launch in April and hope that many will return to sit and watch the wonderful videos on display. These videos show the town before the Shaw started, giving great insight into what Niagara-on-the-Lake was like during that time and what people thought about the changes that were taking place.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Society is holding our monthly lecture series to celebrate the *Year of Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake*. Lectures take place at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month from March to September and are free for Society members (\$5 for non-members).

**June 16:** Terry Judd & Robin Patterson - *Canadian Mime Theatre and Theatre Beyond Words*

**July 21:** Michael Wallace - *A brief history of Theatre in Canada (the first 10,000 years); and thoughts on a Theatre Museum*

**August 18:** Rita Brown - *Costuming*

**September 15:** Jackie Maxwell - *Shaw Festival – The next 50 Years... Jackie Maxwell looks into the Shaw's Future*

The funding we had hoped for to produce a series of readings as a tribute to the work of the Shaw Festival did not come through. Unfortunately, we will not be putting together this full series, but will keep you posted in the event that we do plan one or two readings this summer.

The last of our 1812 lectures is finishing up as our "Museum Chronicles" newsletter is being printed and the success of these morning lectures has been overwhelming, which begs the questions: Was it the topics? The speakers? The time of day? Or is it a combination of the above?

The success of any museum is not just what is being developed, but also the interaction with its members.

The Board and Museum staff are constantly looking at how to pique the interest of our membership. The objective is to promote and inform all of Niagara of our history. We must always be conscious of our responsibilities to the past and to the future of this historic building as well as what is displayed inside.

We welcome your thoughts on how we can continue to grow and prosper.

-Neil Rumble

The 2011 monthly Lecture Series is generously sponsored by:

