



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **March 1:** Doc Club, 10 am
- ◆ **March 21:** Solar Eclipse Lecture, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **March 25:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **April 4:** Members Trivia Night, 7 pm
- ◆ **April 5:** Doc Club, 10 am
- ◆ **April 6:** Land Registry Workshop, 9 am - 3:30 pm
- ◆ **April 18:** Lecture, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **April 22:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **April 29:** Last day for "Strike A Pose" exhibition
- ◆ **May 1:** New seasonal hours start: 10 am to 5 pm daily
- ◆ **May 3:** Doc Club, 10 am
- ◆ **May 3:** Neighbourhood Walk, 6 pm
- ◆ **May 10:** Neighbourhood Walk, 6 pm
- ◆ **May 16:** Lecture, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **May 17:** Neighbourhood Walk, 6 pm
- ◆ **May 22:** Members Exhibition Launch, 4-6 pm
- ◆ **May 24:** Neighbourhood Walk, 6 pm
- ◆ **May 27:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **May 31:** Neighbourhood Walk, 6 pm

The Ontario Land Registry: an Introductory Workshop with the Brown Homestead



Join Brian Narhi, Jessica Linzel and Sara Nixon from the Brown Homestead for a full day workshop at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. Bring a packed lunch; laptops optional.

What you will learn: How to use the Ontario Land Registry online to research a property's history.

06 APRIL
2024

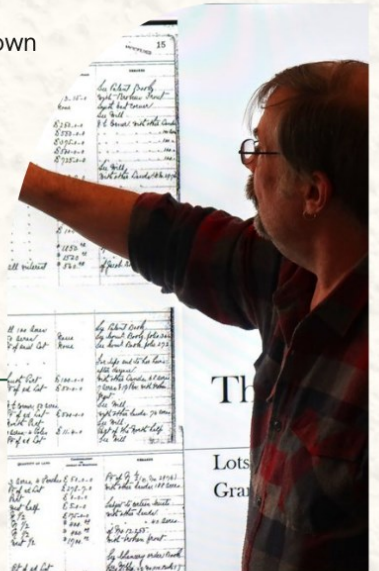
🕒 09.00 AM - 03.30 PM
📍 43 Castlereagh Street

Reserve your spot now by calling the Museum!

🌐 www.notlmuseum.ca
📞 905-468-3912



\$40 for members



New Exhibit Coming in May...

The last day to see our current exhibition, *Strike a Pose: The Art of Self-Obsession*, is April 29th. The main gallery will then be closed for three weeks while staff mount a new display which highlights a selection of Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage houses. Stay tuned for your invitation to our Members' opening on May 22nd, 2024.



happening at the museum

VOLUNTEER Appreciation Lunch

Wednesday, May 8th: 11am – 1pm
at NAVY HALL

In honour of the astonishing contributions of our many volunteers, we will once again be hosting our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. Please mark the date in your calendar and watch for your invitations by email or mail.

We are always indebted to the incalculable hours that you – our volunteers - dedicate to the NOTL Museum. Your willingness to attend events, research, organize, interpret, host, write, tour, speak, garden, decorate, sew, knit, crochet, build, and participate in so many, many activities, ensures that the NOTL Museum continues to grow, develop, and be as valuable as it can be to this community.

IT'S A NUMBERS GAME

with Doreen Namayanja, Database Coordinator

I would like to share my experience working with two key elements that are at the center of my work - Object IDs and Accession numbers.

Object IDs are like name tags. I have had the privilege of managing and assigning Object IDs, ensuring that every artifact is properly identified. I also identify duplicates or missing data, eliminating redundancies and inconsistencies to maintain data integrity. Whether it is a decades-old artifact or a contemporary piece, every Object ID guarantees a unique identity, preserving the individuality of each artifact in our collection.

On the other hand, Accession numbers serve as chronological markers that trace the journey of the artifacts into our museum's collection. I conduct database audits to verify that each artifact is assigned the correct accession number, without duplicates or missing numbers. I ensure that each artifact's history is accurately documented including their acquisition from donors and any other relevant historical information.

Cataloguing Object IDs and Accession numbers allows our physical artifacts to be connected to the digital realm. Using database management techniques, I integrate these identifiers into our database which enables researchers, educators, students, tourists and enthusiasts to explore our collections and access valuable information about our artifacts with ease.

FAMOUS & INFAMOUS:

Biography Discussion | 2 pm | \$10 or Free for members

Date	Speaker	Subject
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

SOCIETY LECTURE SERIES

7:30 pm | \$10 or Free for members

Date	Speaker	Topic
Mar 21	Dr. Brian Pihack	The Solar Eclipse (includes viewing glasses)
Apr 18	John B. Lee	Is Newark Burning: the politics of fire during the War of 1812-- a story too complicated to tell
May 16	Adam Shoalts	Where the Falcon Flies: A Journey from Lake Erie to the Arctic
Jun 20	Richard Merritt	The Wilderness
Jul 18	Brian Marshall	Pride & Residence
Aug 15	David Hemmings	Early Virgil Homes
Sep 19	TBA	TBA

Neighbourhood WALKS 2024

Explore the history of five unique areas of NOTL

FRIDAYS IN MAY AT 6PM | \$15

Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance at the Museum.
(Members \$10; Enhanced Members \$8)



- May 3 | **Voices of Freedom** with Jan King-Watson
- May 10 | **St. Davids** with Megan Gilchrist
- May 17 | **Queenston** with Linda Fritz
- May 24 | **Queen Street Homes** with Denise Ascenzo
- May 31 | **Architecture** with Brian Marshall

Doc Club



Participants watch the documentaries in their own time, and then join the Zoom Discussion on the first Friday of the month, at 10 am, from March to May, and then again in the fall.

The NOTL Museum is thrilled to announced that Tyson Sadler, the director of the award-winning documentary, *The Last Tourist*, will be our guest participant for the Doc Club Zoom discussion on Friday May 3. See information below.

Upcoming titles and discussions:

April: Zoom Discussion Friday April 5, 2024

The Secret World of Lewis Carroll (YouTube): This BBC Production explores the life, imagination, and somewhat controversial infatuations of the writer, the Reverend Charles Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll, the author behind the classic children’s book, *Alice in Wonderland*.

May : Zoom Discussion Friday May 3, 2024

The Last Tourist: Director Tyson Sadler’s 2021 award-winning and provocative documentary looks at the global consequences of one of the largest industries in the world – “Tourism”.

For more information, and to receive zoom links for watching these documentaries and joining the discussion, please email Babs Worthy:
bworthy@nhsm.ca

14th Annual
TRIVIA NIGHT
For Niagara Historical Society Members Only

Thursday, April 4
7:00 - 10:00 pm
FREE FOR MEMBERS

Questions cover all genres.
Refreshments provided.

Put together a team of 6 or have us place you at a table. For registration email aklassen@nhsm.ca.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who participated in the Museum’s Santa Claus parade entry. Pictured (L-R) are Barbara Webber and Pam Mundy with out Tiny Museum.



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 Oliver-Malone, Elizabeth
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 Parks, Brenda
 Parks, David
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Powers, Mary
Powers, Thomas
Pratt, Deborah
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Semple, Chris
Sherlock, Brett
Sherlock, Heather
Shiels, Margaret
Simon, Peter
Smith, Nancy
Snyder, Judy
Starzynski, Deborah
Stevenson, David & Sonia
Straw, Geoff
Taylor, Marnie
Taylor, Tim & Kathy in honour
of Jodey Porter
Topps, Alexander
Tranter, Barbara
Trivett, D.
Troutbeck, Ina
Troyer, Jill
Vanderperk, Liz
Virelli, Gregory
Walker, Margret
Walker, Peggy
Webber, George
Weiss, Paul
West, Mary
Williams, Grant
Wood, Megan
Zalepa, Gary

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Biondi, Vincent
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Downes, Vicky
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Erion, Jan

Fedorkow, Lou
Finora, Monique
Goldspink, Tom
Hall, Dianne
Hall, Stewart
Harley, Laurie
Hebert, Suzanne
Hill, Joan
Howe, Marsha
Joyner, Lorraine
Kaufman, Sarah
Klassen, Amy
Knight, Sabina
Larmet, Susan
Letkemann, Charlotte
Loat, Trish
Lorenc, Anne
Merritt, Richard
Mitchell, Sally
Mundy, Pam
Nixon, Laurie
Nixon, Mary Kathryn
Oliver-Malone, Elizabeth
Paine, Deborah
Palframan, Carolyn
Rumble, Ted & Rona Gray
Sant, Kerri
Sayers, John & Judith
Servos, David
Slack, Nina
Smith, Glenn
Thomson, Janice
Uba, Robin
Walker, Margaret
Willowbank School of Restoration Arts
Wright, Peter
Zanner, Gary

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Alma, William & Elizabeth
Coxworthy, Rene
Garriock, Bill & Patty
Goul, Bill & Catherine
Hill, Barry
McArthur, Jim & Sandra Smith
Moody, Kenneth
Moor, Doreen
Novick, Catherine
Oprici, Steven
Panko, Andrew
Scott, John
Scrivener, Charley
Snyder, Judy
Solomatenko, Victor & Anne
Virelli, Greg

MEMORIAM

In Memory of Joy Ormsby
Merritt, Richard

In Memory of Linda Lowrey
Lowrey, Tom

In Memory of Liam Neumann
Oprici, Stephen
Santsche, Gail
Teare, Margaret

In Memory of Bruce Dixon
Busbridge, Randy
Johnson, Doug
Milley, Anthony

COLLECTIONS

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Carson, Richard
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Combe, Donald
Condina, Cosmo
Dale, Ron
Davey, Albert
Dawe, Bonnie
Dirks, Linda
Foley, Patrick
Hilko, Diane
Howe, Louise
Judge, Richard
Lailey, Elsie
Letkemann, Charlotte
Loat, Trish
Meloan, Rick
Merritt, Richard
Newell, Annita
Nisbet, Steve
Regehr, Daniel
Reive, Thomas
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Scott, David
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remember the Niagara
Historical Society.
Contact us to learn more
about different planned
giving options.*

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Linda and Ron Fritz Niagara
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*In December, we welcomed our
Phoenix Circle and other major
donors to enjoy some mimosas
and snacks while our Curator,
Sarah, gave them a hands-on
look at some of our incredible
War of 1812 artefacts and
archives.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Everyone,

I hope you're looking forward to the warmer days as much as I am. Our team of volunteers is planning their outdoor work as we get the property ready for more visitors on our grounds.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is busy all year round, and we are able to offer over 100 programs because of our amazingly dedicated volunteers. I would like to thank each and every one of our very special helpers without whom we would not be able to offer so much quality programming.

Special Recognition for John Sayers

I met John Sayers when I joined the Board of Directors in 2017. He transitioned the Treasurer role to me but

was always available for questions and council, or simply to listen when I needed him. Over the years, John and his lovely wife Judith have given many hours of their time to the NOTL Museum. Most recently, John was the Chair of the publications committee and still sits on the nomination committee. John, Judith, I know you will be friends of the museum for years to come. Enjoy the next phase of your journey as you transition to your new home in St. Catharines.

We continue to work towards our expansion project "Building History Strengthening Community". I hope you have enjoyed reading all the local newspaper articles over the past few months. If you're interested in finding out more about this project, reach out to our Managing Director, Sarah Kaufman at skaufman@nhsm.ca.

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

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

2023 was a great year for the NOTL Museum. In particular, we were very proud of our temporary exhibition, *Bound & Determined: Chloe Cooley, Enslavement and the Fight for Freedom*, to commemorate the 230th Anniversary of the Act to Limit Slavery and the Cooley incident. The feedback we received was very positive, so I thought I'd share a couple visitor comments:

- *"Impactful and honest tribute to Niagara's history. I am saddened and hopeful."*
- *"Such (an) important part of our history that isn't spoken about. It should be incorporated into the museum as a permanent exhibit. Thank you for sharing it."*

Regarding the last comment, we are definitely planning to include Chloe's story in the new permanent exhibition as well as many other under told stories of our community - Indigenous, agricultural, the wine industry, and the Mennonites, just to name a few. We have engaged consultants to help us determine which stories we need to include in the displays. In late spring, an invitation will be sent to you, our members, and the community, asking for your input to assist us with this future planning.

Finally, I also wanted to highlight the work of our Poppy Project Volunteers. They did a wonderful job extending the display to the local Legion last year. The NOTL Museum and its Poppy Project Volunteers won an award in 2023 at the Niagara Region Biennial Awards for Outstanding Achievement in the Outdoor Art category. Well done to the team and to Babs who works so hard to organize and install this beautiful display every year.

- Sarah Kaufman

Pictured: Staff decorating our Museum tree on Queen Street for the NOTL Chamber of Commerce competition.



COLLECTIONS CORNER

The Elsie and “Nix” Brennan Story

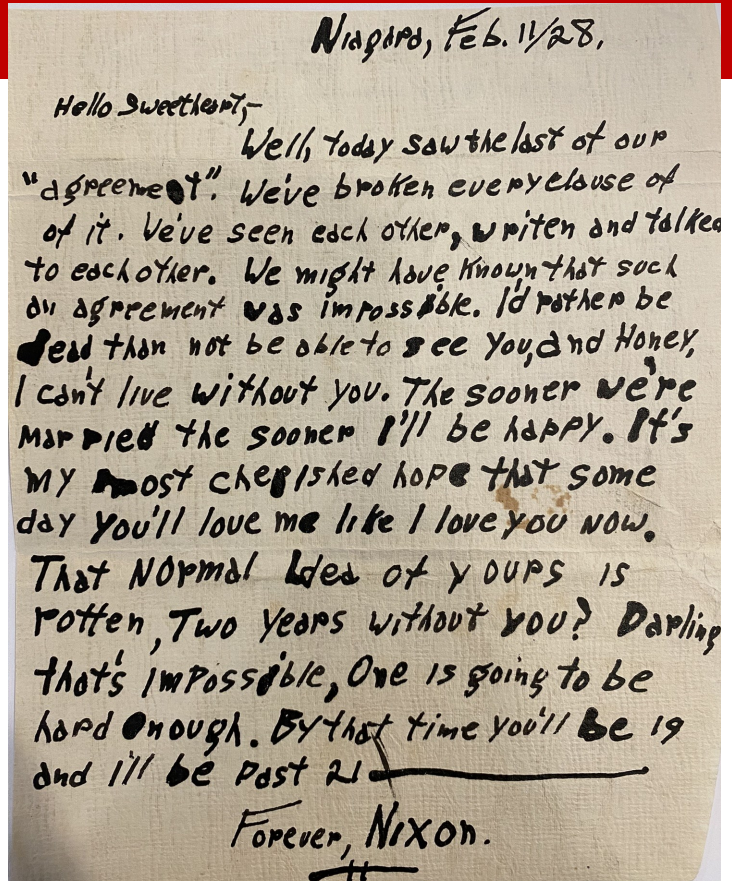
As I am writing this, Valentine's Day is approaching so there must be a hint of love in the air to provoke me into writing this. Recently a collection of family scrapbooks made its way into our collection. One titled “The Elsie Dawson Story” caught my eye. As I was flipping through the book, I felt like I got to witness the life of Elsie Dawson.

There were photos of her growing up at Woodlawn Farm, located at 248 Concession 2 Road. Here she grew up with her parents, at least one younger brother, Harry Dawson (who would go on to be a member of Town Council), and an aunt all under one roof. The family had a peach farm, a dog and many cats. Growing up in the 1920s, Elsie enjoyed participating in mock weddings, which I guess were all the rage in the '20s! Several photos show Elsie dressed as the groom. Her father taught her how to drive in a 1925 Buick Roadster, and in 1927, at the age of 16, she got her driver's license!

It was around this time that Elsie appears to have started dating a young, local man named Nixon “Nix” Brennan. Nix begins appearing cozied up to Elsie in photographs. In the days before Valentine's Day 1928, Nix wrote a letter to Elsie that I thought was really sweet. He says:

“...Honey, I can't live without you. The sooner we're married the sooner I'll be happy. It's my most cherished hope that some day you'll love me like I love you now”.

Isn't that just so sweet?! There aren't many letters in our collection that show this kind of love between a couple. Nixon and Elsie eventually married in Niagara-on-the-Lake on October 21, 1930.



As I continued flipping through the pages, I saw their family grow from one to five kids. But my heart sank when I saw that Nixon enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII. Fortunately, his hearing wasn't what it should be for a special radio operator, so he was discharged from active duty. He eventually enlisted as a Civil Security Police Officer.

“Nix” went on to work for the family business, publishing the Niagara Advance, and it appears that Elsie became a business partner. They eventually moved from NOTL to St. Catharines.

Family scrapbooks are a great social history resource and occasionally you get some great stories from their pages.

- Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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New rates as of January 1, 2022

Individual: \$35
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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

43 Castlereagh Street, PO Box 208
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0
Phone: 905-468-3912 | Fax: 905-468-1728
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Visit us at www.notlmuseum.ca



STAFF

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

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



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