



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **December 6 & 7:** Rotary Holiday House Tour, Museum open 10 am to 5 pm
- ◆ **December 14:** Santa Claus Parade, 11 am (look for the Tiny Museum!)
- ◆ **December 18—January 1:** Museum closed for the holidays
- ◆ **January 27:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **February 5:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ◆ **February 7:** Doc Club, 10 am
- ◆ **February 12:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ◆ **February 19:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am
- ◆ **February 24:** Famous & Infamous, 2 pm
- ◆ **February 26:** Virtual Lecture, 11 am

*Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors:*



## The Poppy Project 2024



Once again, the NOTL Museum's Poppy Brigade has created a formidable visual display of respect and commemoration, with four poppy installations in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This year the project expanded to include a beautiful exterior display at Queenston's RiverBrink Art Museum, complementing the installations at the Royal Canadian Legion on King Street, the Courthouse on Queen Street, and the NOTL Museum on Castlereagh Street.

The project has received accolades from across the country, all due to the many hours of passion, commitment, and 'hand-labour' from our wonderful team of volunteers. As always, this year's installation was made possible with the help of Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada, who worked their magic, despite weather complications.

Honouring our veterans gives all of us a great sense of pride and satisfaction, and working closely with the Legion is paramount to the project.

The Poppy Project features more than 10 thousand crocheted or knitted poppies on seventeen nets, a 'garden' of handcrafted poppies bearing the name of our local veterans, more than 50 handmade wreaths for local businesses to display, as well as purple poppies attached to the bridles and saddles of horses with Sentineal Carriages, honouring the silent contribution of animals during both world wars. The team was also thrilled to work with the students at Royal Oak School, helping them create their own commemoration projects.

The challenge of creating the poppies is matched by the physical skills and agility needed to hang and take down the massive nets. Each year the 'brigade' prepares itself for days of hard physical work, helped by a few painkillers in some cases. But when the nets are dried, rolled, tied up in dozens of sheets, and packed away for another year, the sense of accomplishment is high.

Special thanks this year to Cornerstone Church and Central Community Church for providing drying space for the nets. Suitable drying locations is a continual quest. All ideas welcomed.

In the spring of 2025, we will start planning for Year Five of the Poppy Project. If you're interested in joining the brigade of volunteers, contact Babs Worthy: [bworthy@nhsm.ca](mailto:bworthy@nhsm.ca)

Remember, the key to good health and aging well, is finding purpose, passion, and projects. Working on the Poppy Project, and the many other opportunities with the NOTL Museum, does exactly that.

# *happening* at the *museum*

## HOLIDAY EVENTS

The Museum is once again part of the annual Rotary Holiday House tour on December 6 & 7. But you don't need a ticket to visit us on those dates. We are open 10 am to 5 pm both days and admission is free.

Memorial Hall will be decorated by our wonderful volunteer crew in a gingerbread theme and we will have hot apple cider and great shopping for the gift-giving season!

Pam Mundy will also be dressed as Mrs. Claus, handing out samples of her famous shortbread from 1-4 pm.

On December 14th, the Tiny Museum will be on display with our costumed volunteers in the NOTL Christmas Parade. The parade comes by right in front of the Museum, so bring your chairs and blankets, and grab a spot on Castlereagh Street!

**Rotary Holiday House Tour:**  
December 6 & 7 | 10 am—5 pm  
**Parade:** December 14th at 11 am

## 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.

## FAMOUS & INFAMOUS:

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

Date	Speaker	Subject
Jan 27	Victoria Wisdom	Marcus Aurelius
Feb 24	David Snelgrove	Wernher von Braun
Mar 24	Linda Fritz	Isabel Mackenzie King
Apr 28	Diane Kendall	Louisa May Alcott
May 26	Gwen Laing	Florence Nightingale
Jun 23	Mark Gaudet	Gertrude Bell
Jul 28	Craig Tallman	William Stephenson
Aug 25	Michael Clark	Pierre Elliot Trudeau
Sep 22	Tom Pekar	Billy Bishop
Oct 27	Betsy Masson	Alexander Niven
Nov 24	Judy Thornton	Coco Chanel

## VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES:

Wednesdays in February at 11 am on Zoom | Free for all

Date	Speaker	Subject
Feb 5	David Hemmings	The Rand Estate
Feb 12	Linda Fritz	Glencairn Hall
Feb 19	Brian Marshall	The Plumb House and Others
Feb 26	Richard Merritt	The Wilderness

## Membership Renewal:

To all members, please note that we are now taking membership renewals for 2025.

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!**



*Sarah Kaufman, Rochelle Bush, Natasha Henry-Dixon, and Shawna Butts at the opening for Bound & Determined.*



On November 22, 2024, the Ontario Museum's Association held its annual Awards of Excellence Ceremony, and we WON the 2024 Award of Excellence in Exhibitions for the exhibition, Bound and Determined: Chloe Cooley, Enslavement, and the Fight for Freedom.

Our exhibit was selected for our collaborative, inclusive, intentional and truthful approach to this aspect of our history, along with the exhibition's didactic elements, including the 'Words Have Power' panel and the weighted exercise ball, were particularly noted for their ability to move and challenge visitors.

The exhibitions co-curators, Sarah Kaufman (CEO & Curator), Shawna Butts (Assistant Curator & Education Programmer), Rochelle Bush (Trustee, Salem Chape BME Church and Freedom Seeker descendent), and Dr. Natasha Henry-Dixon (Assistant Professor, African Canadian History, York University), are very honoured that this exhibition was chosen for this recognition.

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

I am so honoured and excited to have been selected as the Chair – formerly known as President- for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum at this year's Annual General Meeting. I want to thank Mona Babin for her leadership of the board over the past few years and our other outgoing Board Members - Alex Topps, Paul Harber, Pauline Miller and Nick Ruller who have been instrumental in supporting the Museum. I would like to welcome our new board members – Rhonda Marquis, Brandon Carter, Jamie Knight and Ted Rumble. We will continue to work together with a focus on our Capital Expansion Project.

In the very short time that I have been Chair, I have had the privilege of attending several Remembrance Ceremonies around our community:

- The Valour and Victory: Honouring Indigenous Veterans ceremony held at the Landscape of Nations Memorial in Queenston Heights. The ceremony included a special plaque unveiling

honouring Teyoninhokarawen (John Norton).

- The dedication of the Major Benjamin Handley Geary Monument at St. Marks's Anglican Church.
- The Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the NOTL Cenotaph and at the Queenston Cenotaph, where I laid wreaths on behalf of the Museum

The Remembrance Day ceremonies were made extra special by the Poppy Project and the poppy displays around our community. It was wonderful to hear people comment on how lovely these displays are – thank you so much to our volunteers and staff who made this project possible.

In closing, I would like to extend a big thank you to our members, donors and volunteers because without you, our future would not be possible.

Happy Holidays Everyone and looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

*Susan May Wery*  
Board Chair

## COLLECTIONS CORNER

Every so often a gem of an artefact comes through our doors...or in this case, a cowrie shell snuffbox. Towards the end of October I took a phone call from Henry Smith and his son, Mark. It was one of those surreal conversations where they were offering to donate an item to the collection that is associated to both the Servos and Claus family! For those that know NOTL's history, those are BIG early settler families. Inscribed on the silver lid is "A Token of Gratitude from Wm. Claus Esq to Mrs Eliz Servos Niagara Feb 5th 1801". The Eliza[beth] Servos noted on this engraving is likely Elizabeth Johnson Powell, who married Capt. Daniel Servos in 1783. What's curious is that William's mother, Ann, died on the date of the inscription. Perhaps he gave this snuffbox to Elizabeth for her kindness towards his mother. I almost felt silly even asking our collections committee if they wanted to accept the item into the collection and basically prefaced it as "we're taking this item". With a resounding YES across the committee, Henry and Mark came down to drop off the snuffbox. It was wonderful meeting Henry, who at 103 years young, attended the Public School on Platoff Street (before Parliament Oak was built) and the High School that is now part of the Museum. Having grown up in NOTL, he knew the significance of this item when he saw it go up for auction in the early-2000s.

The biggest question was how this item ended up outside of the Servos family. Well, the "black sheep" of the family, Lancelot Cressy Servos, had access to some of the family's collection. He likely ended up selling it to pay off some of his debts.

We are very thankful to Henry for acquiring this item and then eventually donating it to our museum! It is a wonderful addition to our collection and may in fact be one of the earliest engraved items in our town's history!

- *Shawna Butts, Assistant Curator*



Henry Smith and Shawna Butts

## NOTL Museum Capital Campaign Report

The purchase of the Janet Carnochan property at 25 Castlereagh in June this year was a huge win for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, the community, and a significant milestone in our **Building History, Strengthening Community** project. The house added over 2,000 square feet of usable space to our museum.

A team of volunteers has been working diligently to update our requirements. While this acquisition provides us with a new home for the research centre, additional storage, and badly needed office space, we **still need to add** a community room and a permanent programming space. We have met with our architects and are close to confirming the new design and cost structure.

While plans are being finalized, the Capital Campaign committee has been preparing communication and continuing fundraising efforts. In the new year, we will be hosting a member event. This will be your opportunity to find out about the changes, ask questions on the build, and find out [how you can donate](#). We look forward to having you join us on our journey to our total fundraising goal.

If you have any questions about our Capital Campaign, please reach out to CEO Sarah Kaufman at [skaufman@nhsn.ca](mailto:skaufman@nhsn.ca). Stay tuned for more information!

- *Mona Babin, Committee Director and NOTL Museum Past Chair*



# Funding Announcements



At our AGM on October 17th, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum celebrated a \$13,100 Capital grant from the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to make important improvements to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's facilities, which will help preserve one of Ontario's most unique collections.

Museums worldwide are the guardians of cultural treasures and, thanks to this OTF grant, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum was able to purchase and replace 30 sheets of plexiglass, with UV-absorbing film, on all its interior windows to ensure the museum is well able to maintain the guardianship of those treasures.

Assistant Curator for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, Shawna Butts, believes the OTF Capital Grant is a life preserver for the NOTL Museum's collection. "Ultraviolet rays pose a critical risk to museum collections, just like they do to humans. They fade colours, deteriorate fabrics and cause shrinking and cracking to some materials. With this Ontario Trillium Capital grant, we are essentially re-applying our sunscreen by replacing the expired UV plexiglass with brand-new ones. They are the silent guardians of our collection, and this will allow us to continue preserving the town's history for years to come."

L – R: Sarah Kaufman; Mark O'Donnell, Ontario Trillium Foundation volunteer; Mona Babin, Past Chair, NOTL Museum; Owen Riel, Constituency Assistant to Wayne Gates, MPP; Shawna Butts.



We are so excited to announce that our Past is Present Heritage Festival was selected for the 'My Main Street Community Activator initiative'!

With this support, we enhanced our August event this year, expanding the event into the street and attracting over 2,000 visitors to the heritage district for live music, vendors and historical demonstrations.

Thank you FedDevOntario and the Canadian Urban Institute for supporting local communities and revitalizing main streets.

## The Doc Club continues in 2025!

Watch the docs in your own time and join the Zoom discussions. Stay tuned for details in our e-blasts.

**Zoom Discussions:** Friday, February 7  
Friday, March 7  
Friday, April 4  
Friday May 2

Good documentaries should make you want to talk about them. That's why we show interesting docs, and hope you'll join the discussion around your computer. Interested? Tell Babs: [bworthy@nhsm.ca](mailto:bworthy@nhsm.ca).

## REPORT FROM THE CEO

What an amazing year for operational fundraising! We raised over \$110,000 for the Museum's operations and future growth through events in 2024. In my time at the NOTL Museum, I believe that is the most we have ever raised through events!

The success is due to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and staff. We are so grateful to the hard-working Niagara Polo Committee Members who planned, promoted and executed the most unique event in NOTL: Amy Klassen (Chair), Barbara Worthy, George Dell, Rene Bertschi, Lois Chapman, Dick Coyne, Jolanta Janny, Pauline Miller, Audrey Pellet, George Webber, Charley Scrivener, Ann Dickson, Patricia Pehar, Rose Campbell, Janet Marecki, and Janet Newey. A special thank you to all our sponsors and auction donors who made the event possible! The event was the talk of the Town and we look forward to planning Niagara Polo 2026!

A wonderful new addition to that amazing weekend was our annual Heritage Garden Party at the picturesque grounds of the McArthur Estate. Thank you to the Garden Party committee members Catharine Novick (Chair), Carol Clarke, Deborah Williams, Ruth Denyer, Laurie Harley, Nancy Ammari and Patti Garriock. Their dedication to the success of the event resulted in 97% of the event proceeds going to the Museum! Thank you to our donors/sponsors for this wonderful support! The detailed planning resulted in a exceptional itinerary where guests enjoyed wine, food, and entertainment at one of NOTL's most historic properties.

As the year comes to a close, I would also like to recognize the staff here at the NOTL Museum. They dedicate hours, and many overtime hours, to ensure the Museum is engaging for residents and tourists. With this amazing team- Amy, Shawna, Babs & Peter- this museum has emerged as one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's most engaging cultural/heritage hubs!

I can't wait to see what our volunteers and staff will do for 2025 - our 130th Anniversary!

- Sarah Kaufman



Above: Brenda & Blair McArthur, hosts of our Heritage Garden Party. Photo courtesy of Dave Van de Laar.

Left: A view of the polo field, courtesy of Rene Bertschi, Skyview Arts.

WINTER 2024



Garden Party photo courtesy of Dave Van de Laan



Niagara Polo photo courtesy of Peter Pham.

# Thank you



Brenda & Blair McArthur Elaine & Donald Triggs **TRUBAR™**



# NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ted Rumble  
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## HONORARY LIFE SUPPORTERS

Dr. Richard Merritt  
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## GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Due in January each year

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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@NOTLMuseum

## STAFF

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Peter Wright - Maintenance Coordinator

## MUSEUM HOURS

MAY TO OCTOBER: 10 AM TO 5 PM DAILY

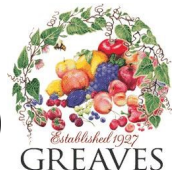
NOVEMBER TO APRIL: 1 PM TO 5 PM DAILY

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

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