



**BRANT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Your History Matters

Spring 2013

What's Happening

Spring 2013

From The Director's Desk

It's been quite an eventful few months at the Society with exhibit openings, the oral history project, and the annual general meeting to name but a few things that have been going on. Many thanks to Carolee Dunn and her crew for all their hard work. She's also run a couple of roadshows to collect stories from Paris and worked a multi-generational collaboration with Grace Church and Brantford Collegiate Institute.

Our current temporary exhibits under the banner title "Solstice" will run until June of this year and include some remarkable photography blending old and current Brantford. Headgear from our collection representing various facets of life's passage and augmented displays upstairs are worth the trip downtown.

Myrtleville House held its annual Easter Egg Hunt and welcomed scores of eager kids combing through the grounds in search of sweet treasures. The House was also the unfortunate recipient of some not so welcome attention in April as thunderstorms left their impressions on the House's security system. A blast of lightning damaged the system but a replacement unit was installed.

Our Speakers Series has a new wrinkle as we hope to attract young families to the event. As mum and dad take part in the event, their youngsters can do arts and crafts in the library under staff guidance. Spread the word... come to the Speakers Series and forget about babysitting costs!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have helped at Myrtleville and Charlotte St. I can truly say that without your devotion to our cause we would not be able to produce the programming, exhibits, and research services that we use to remain a vital and relevant part of our community.

My thanks to all of you.
John Robertson, Executive Director

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Solstice Gala; your support was overwhelming. The atmosphere in the museum was electric, full of both familiar and new faces. The Gala kicked off the run of our new exhibits, *Tip of the Hat, We Are What We Wore* and *Now and Then*, which will be closing June 8th. Coming up next is Brantwood – 100 Years, an exhibit that pays tribute to the centre's century of service. The exhibit will explore the different ways the centre has contributed to the healthcare needs of the community as well as take an in depth look at the individuals who have shaped its role within Brant. Brantwood – 100 Years will open Saturday June 15th.

Chelsea Carss, Curator

Volunteers Needed

The Brant Historical Society has a lot of interesting volunteer opportunities available. Presently we are looking for people interested in helping with our summer programming. If you are interested, please contact **Lisa Anderson** at **519-752-3216**, or email her at lisa.anderson@brantmuseums.ca. We are also collecting and transcribing oral histories. For more information on interview volunteer or transcribing volunteer opportunities please contact **Carolee Dunn** at carolee.dunn@brantmuseums.ca. We are also looking for volunteers to help with special events and Adult Outreach programming. For more information please contact **Carlie Myke** at carlie.myke@brantmuseums.ca. Training is available for all positions. If you are interested please call us at **519-752-2483** or email us at information@brantmuseums.ca



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When I started volunteering for The Oral History Project I had no expectations of what I would get out of it; to be completely honest, I didn't think it would be that enriching of an experience. I figured that I would sit down with a fellow citizen, who despite living in the same city as me would be a complete stranger, I would listen to them tell me a story, ask a few questions, and that would be it. But I couldn't have been more wrong.

Listening to people speak of their community with such a strong sense of pride has been infectious. Their adoration towards Brantford has changed the way I view the city giving me a more positive perspective. And the best thing about this is I'm not the only example of someone who has been impacted by this project.

Part of my volunteer position was to help facilitate collaboration with Brantford Collegiate Institute. All the students of the Grade 11 Laurier Class were acting volunteers doing what I did, sitting down and interviewing a Brantford citizen. These students, much like me, went into their first interview with an indifference towards Brantford. During those interviews however, each student was able to experience what I went through, that "Aha!" moment where you realize that you live in an amazing city that is home to such amazing people.

The Oral History Project is helping to change our city. It's shaping what seems like a city of strangers into a city of neighbours, it's allowing us to learn from our past, and it's reviving the people of Brantford and Brant County to become impassioned about their community.

Rachel McNeill

Speakers Series

Monuments of Brantford, June 13th. A Presentation by Nicole Drake. Brantford is home to several spectacular statues and stones; join us to discover more about some of our treasured artistic monuments. Kids will start their own gardens by planting seeds they can take home and painting miniature flower pots. Note that June's event will be on the second Thursday of the month and not the third.

Cockshutt Park and Brantford's Sporting History, July 18th. Join us for a chat with Warren Bechard, Brantford's resident sport historian, along with Wayne Hunter. Kids will make their own medals and learn about some of Brantford's famous athletes.

Everyday Life on Early Ontario Farms, August 15th. Andrea Gal is presenting life on the farm for early Ontario settlers. Kids will put together farm animal crafts and learn about domestic work at farmhouses.

Starts at 7:30pm at the Brant Museum & Archives, 57 Charlotte St, Brantford. We are also offering children's programming for kids while the adults enjoy the Speakers Series. Admission is free for BHS members and \$10.00 for non-members. Children get in free with adult admission!

A Great Way to Spend Your Summer Days!

Summer Camps - For Children 4 – 11 years old.

Our camp starts July 2nd and runs to August 23rd. Our themes will include Dynamic Dinosaurs, Barnyard Palooza, Let's Get Movin', Pioneer adventures, Sizzling summer, Zoom! Zoom! Zoom! Ocean Commotion, and Art-tastic. During each week we will be making crafts and doing activities related to that particular week's theme. Each day we do a baking activity. Past baking activities have included dirt cake, cupcakes, candy sushi, brownies, cow cookies, mouse cookies, and Jello aquariums. Each Wednesday we walk to Anne Good Park where campers have an opportunity to play on the equipment. On hot days, campers cool off with our slip and slide and crazy sprinkler. During summer camp we welcome many special guests. Past guests have included Mad Science, SPCA, Doug the Great, and Crock a Doodle.

Campers really enjoy finding Millie the Myrtleville mouse and her friends in the house and love to participate in scavenger hunts. The hunts are based on each theme. During Pioneer Week, campers have a chance to learn about pioneers. Campers can dress up like pioneers, make a pioneer lunch, and take part in pioneer activities such as making a wooden toy, making jam, having a tour of the museum and workshop, shelling corn, making corn flour, pioneer chores including laundry, milking a cow, stuffing a straw mattress and beating a rug.

Millie the Myrtleville Mouse and her mouse friends will be attending all camp days. Her friends are for sale in the museum's gift shop for \$2.

Millie the Mouse invites you to come out to our camp and meet new friends and enjoy our many activities. The children who have attended in the past love coming to Myrtleville and we would love to have you join us as well.