



**BRANT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

*Your History Matters*

Winter 2012

# What's Happening

## From The Director's Desk

Hello one and all! Please let me introduce myself to everyone interested in celebrating the heritage and people of Brantford and the Brant Region. I have been involved with the heritage industry for more than 30 years, beginning my career at Fort William Heritage Park in Thunder Bay, and have worked on both the east and west coasts and a few places in the middle. I am looking forward to spending the rest of my working life (and a good chunk of years after that) here and helping the Museum reach its goal of being the best Regional Museum in Ontario.

After only a few short weeks here I can with confidence say that the collections are amongst the finest I've seen at a Museum of this size and that the staff here is dedicated, enthusiastic, and well above the professional standards set by the heritage industry in Canada. We intend to build upon the work done by the generations who came before us and leave a legacy that those who follow will be proud to use as their starting point. And on that note... we are going to be mounting a membership and volunteer push in the very near future, so if you know people who want to be part of the renaissance, start spreading the word.

Ad astra!

**John Robertson, Executive Director**



**We have some great children's programs running at our Myrtleville House location during November and December.**

Be sure to [contact lisa.anderson@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:lisa.anderson@brantmuseums.ca) for further information of our upcoming children's events, including:

### Good Cheer

'Tis the season to be jolly! Join the Myrtleville House Museum this festive season and discover the traditions of Christmas Past. Explore early settlers Christmas traditions such as the adoption of the Christmas tree, the emergence of gift-giving, and the holiday season before Santa Claus.

## Discoveries from the Collection Room Shelves

Museums can be an infinite source of wonder and inspiration, even to the people who work in them. The recent discovery of a cabinet containing a collection of items relevant to the local Six Nations history is definitely an example of such experience.

The most interesting object found was a pipe Tomahawk that belonged to Joseph Brant. According to the museum's records and an inscription found on the pipe, the object was found in Brant's Red House in Wellington Square. It was retrieved by F.D Ghent, a postmaster from Burlington whose ancestor's farm neighbored the Chief's Red House. The inscription on the object also tells us that at some point it belonged to a Miss Colter before it became a part of the Brant Historical Society's collection.

### Burying the Hatchet

The Tomahawk pipe's long smooth hardwood handle fastens to the blade and features a hand-turned end with a groove for a rope or handle for carrying. The handle has been hollowed-out in order to serve as a pipe for ceremonial purposes, while the blade has been engraved with a sun, moon and star pattern. In spite of its violent nature, the tomahawk was most likely never used as a weapon, but instead served a ceremonial function. The pipe tomahawk symbolized the alternative of war and peace available at any time. Striking the ground with the blade, its owner could literally "bury the hatchet," which left the peace pipe exposed above the ground.

By **Chelsea Carss**

### Seasonal Celebrations

Explore different holiday and gift-giving traditions from around the world. Students will have a chance to compare and contrast different traditions from their own. Students will also create their own unique seasonal craft that reflects various traditions from around the world. Choose 2 unique cultural traditions to explore with students.



**'Tis the season! Visit our gift shop during this Holiday Season to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list. Stop by the Brant Museum and Archives to view our large selection of books, videos and gifts featuring the history and heritage of Brantford and Brant County. All BHS Members receive a 10% discount!**



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## A Message to Our Donors & Partners

A significant part of our work at the Brant Historical Society is to create memorable experiences for our members, donors and community, that deepen their understanding of the important work we do. Our three museums are uniquely positioned to make a difference in the lives of Brantford, Brant County, Six Nations and New Credit, through our collection and programs that illustrate this area's carried history, and protects it for future generations.

With your generous and on-going support, we are able to continue our vital vision to be the destination for the history and heritage of our community. The BHS is looking to the future and the long-term sustainability of the museums. Support from individuals, corporations and various levels of government will continue to play a major role in ensuring the museum's ongoing success and significance.

With the support of our community, we will continue to collect, preserve, and share our valuable history!

## Events

**November 15 - "Brantford's 54th Field Artillery Battery, 100 Years of Service to Canada"** will be this month's speaker series presented by Hon Col Ed Pancoe. Learn about the history of this local Regiment and remember soldiers long past. The event will start at 1:30pm at the Brant Museum and Archives. Admission is by donation to this event.



**November 16 - Vikings.** Come discover Vikings at the Myrtleville Museum. Learn Viking language, create a Viking artifact, and a Viking boat. Beware of Beowulf. For children ages 4 - 11. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$30 per child with extended hours available. For more information please **contact Lisa** at 519-752-3216 or by email at [lisa.anderson@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:lisa.anderson@brantmuseums.ca)

**November 26, 2012, 4 - 6:30pm - Meet our new Executive Director!** The Brant Historical Society is holding an event at the Brantford Golf & Country Club for any members and staff that would like to meet our new Executive Director, John Robertson. The Brantford Golf & Country Club is located at 60 Ava Road, in Brantford. Please contact us at 519-752-2483 to RSVP or for any additional information.

**December 13th, 2012 - Brant Taletellers Guild** will be this month's speaker series at the Myrtleville House Museum. Please join us at this special Holiday edition to our series. For more information please contact us at [information@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:information@brantmuseums.ca).

## Myrtleville House Museum's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Myrtleville House, once home to four generations of the Good family, is now an interactive learning space that the community can use to discover what family living was like 175 years ago and to learn about the place of the Good family in Ontario farming history. This is something I learned on my first visit to Myrtleville House at our Harvest Fest on Saturday October, 13th.

The Harvest Fest event was a celebration of Myrtleville's long and diverse history within the community. We had many events running that day, including demonstrations of rope making, needle and threading, blacksmithing, and baking homemade apple cookies; our staff even dressed up in costume!

The rain didn't stop the 100 or so visitors who came to celebrate with us. The children seemed to love the petting zoo that Volkswagen provided for us which included rabbits, chickens, goats and a cow! A children's relay race, including egg-and-spoon race, obstacle course, and apple run, was ready for the families to enjoy upon their arrival. Many folks who joined us that day took time to reminisce about their childhood visits to Myrtleville themselves.

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with us, and made the occasion a spectacular day!

## 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 holiday programming**. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Anderson at 519-752-3216, or by email at [lisa.anderson@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:lisa.anderson@brantmuseums.ca). We are also collecting and transcribing oral histories. For more information on interview volunteer or transcribing volunteer opportunities please **contact Kerry Fast** at [kerry.fast@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:kerry.fast@brantmuseums.ca). We are also looking for volunteers to help with special events and school programming. Training is available for all positions.

**If you are interested please call us at 519-752-2483 or email us at [information@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:information@brantmuseums.ca)**

**Do you have a story, memory, or historical document that you want to share?** We want to hear from you! Fill out the form at our website [www.brantmuseums.ca](http://www.brantmuseums.ca) to share your story with us, and become an integral player in preserving the history and heritage of Brantford and Brant County, because your history matters!