

**BRANT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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We're on the Web!
Brantmuseum.ca

Donations

We are always accepting donations for the museum. Not every donation needs to be financial. We also accept office and museum supplies. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact us to make arrangements for your donation.



April 1st, 2015

Spring Newsletter 2015

Upcoming Events

April

- ◆ **Myrtleville Annual Easter Egg Hunt**
April 4th starting at 10:30am
Myrtleville House Museum - 34 Myrtleville Dr. Brantford
- ◆ **Westfield Walking Tour**
April 19th starting at 1:30pm
Westfield Heritage Village - 1049 Kirkwall Rd. Rockton
- ◆ **PA Day Camp - Spring Time**
April 24th - Drop off between 8am - 9am
Myrtleville House Museum - 34 Myrtleville Dr. Brantford
- ◆ **Hugh Brewster Talk & Book Signing**
April 29th starting at 7:00pm
Brant Museum & Archives - 57 Charlotte St. Brantford

May

- ◆ **West Brantford Walking Tour**
May 2nd starting at 10:30am
Starting in parking lot of Fordview Court - off Gilkison St.
- ◆ **Brantford Canal Walking Tour**
May 23rd starting at 10:30am
Brantford Armories - 18 Brant Avenue, Brantford,
- ◆ **Upper Town of Paris Walking Tour**
May 30th starting at 10:30am
Old Town Hall - Corner of Church & Dundas St.

June

- ◆ **PA Day Camp - Flapdoodle Fairy Tales**
June 5th - Drop off between 8am-9am
Myrtleville House Museum - 34 Myrtleville Dr. Brantford
- ◆ **Great War Walking Tour**
June 13th starting at 10:30am
Market Square Railway Station



**Spring Newsletter
2015**

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April 1st, 2015

From the Executive Director's Desk

The wonderful staff at BHS has been busy planning new programs and activities for the year. Some of these activities will be promoted in this news letter, and others like *Culture Days*, *Doors:Unhinged*, and the *Ontario Archives Bus Trip*, will be advertised later in the fall. (I hope I have peaked your curiosity for the later three.). In regards to many of our programs, we have partnered with other members of the Brant Museums and Galleries association, such as Glenhyrst Art Gallery, Woodland Cultural Centre, Bell Homestead, Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Historical House, and Ontario Geneological Society, Wilfrid Laurier University and others. We could not do it without their support. Over the last twenty years, the educational role of the museum has become central to its mission. There are

now far more educational opportunities, new spaces, new interfaces - both digital and physical, and a growing number of education and interpretation departments, educational curators and public engagement programmes. Despite these developments, however, higher education has remained a marginal collaborator compared to primary and secondary schools as well as other forms of adult learning. This has meant that the possibilities for partnerships between universities, colleges, museums and galleries has remained relatively unexplored, especially in relation to their potential for generating innovative patterns of research and learning.

There is a need to examine key issues which are preventing such partnerships and how to enable more effective and creative con-

nections between museums and higher education and to identify conceptual and practical barriers. As pressures mount on public educational resources around the world, there is a need for an urgent increase in the exchange of knowledge across these sectors and the forging of partnerships. It is our agenda, through the following year to increase our collaboration and integration with universities and colleges. I hope you will join us on this exciting adventure

Lana Jobe
Executive Director

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Images from the Past



This image is of 57 Charlotte St. taken in 1947, just a few years before Brant Historical Society took ownership, transforming it to our Brant Museum & Archives building.

RE-ORG Project

A common issue that museums around the world face is maintaining an organized archive collection. Here at Brant Historical Society, our archive collection houses more than 80,000 items. With so many items and only a limited amount of space, the collection was becoming difficult to access quickly and efficiently or in some extreme cases, at all. The majority of museums and archives have 90-95% of their collections in storage, making it nearly impossible for public to have access to the archives, and leave them vulnerable to damage. Our friends at the Canadian Conservation Institute and



RE-ORG International have recognized and developed a workshop and conference program to remedy these issues. Last year Brant Historical Society was asked if we would be interested in hosting the program, and we gratefully accepted on March 24th began the three day workshop and right away Canadian Conservation Institute, Brant Historical Society staff, and staff from six other museums got to work overhauling our existing spaces. They installed new shelving, cleared out debris, organized, labelled and relocated artifacts all around our Brant Museum & Archive location at 57 Charlotte St. The results are incredible. The

historic house that Brant Museum & Archives calls home is no longer bursting at the seams, our collection has been re-organized, is much more accessible and better stored so it is not at risk of being damaged. Friday March 27th we hosted the conference portion of the program at our Market Square location. Over 80 people were in attendance to hear stories of museums storage and re-organization, including all the work that happened over the three day workshop providing Brant Historical Society with a great new and improved archive.

March Break Camp

The Myrtleville House Museum hosted another successful March Break Camp this spring! Local children enjoyed the exciting super hero training themed camp activities. Campers made superhero outfits and sidekicks to assist them in uncovering their inner super hero. Campers also enjoyed expressing their creativity by making their own comic books and trading cards. Every afternoon super hero training com-

menced and kids practiced their super hero skills such as speed, agility, and saving citizens in distress! At the end of the week the activities were combined into an obstacle course which the kids delighted in doing over and over again. Myrtleville looks forward to the last two PA Days of the year on April 24th and June 5th before summer camp begins.



Museum-In-The-Square

The staff of Brant Historical Society brought a proposal to the Board to re-open the Museum-in-the-square location in Market Square. The proposal laid out the services, and features of the location. The original features included a bigger store front, a program & conference room, exhibit space, gallery & event space, research stations, and a student workspace. It was decided to have, a soft opening where we could gauge the feedback and support of the community towards the

proposal. Store Manager Chris Shaw spent two weeks in the location for the soft opening. In those two weeks we gathered a lot of information including visitor numbers, potential sale numbers, and the interest in the features and services we would offer at this location. We were overwhelmed by the support from the community, and visitor and potential sale numbers were higher than we were expecting. The community feedback lead us to modify the proposal.

The biggest change is to consider turning the gallery into a cafe. Several offers have also been presented to the museum as possible partnership opportunities for this location. We are looking at incorporating other Museums & Galleries from Brant County. Laurier is also working with us to maximize the potential of the student workspace. We are very excited about all the opportunity here to create a true cultural crossroads for all of Brant County.

Myrtleville Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Myrtleville House Museum is looking forward to hosting its Annual Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday April 4th. The Easter bunny will cut the ribbon at 10:30 to begin the fun! Arrive early to have your face painted and create an Easter craft. All ages are welcome and candy prizes will be given to children who participate. A tour of the Museum will start at 11am and an outdoor tour of the grounds will start at noon. There is no need to pre-register and admission to the event is by donation.

The Brant Historical Society wishes to thank the Myrtleville Neighbourhood Association and individuals who donated supplies and time for this event. We wish everyone a happy Easter, and hope to see you at the hunt!



Research & Archives: An update on the Inventory Project

As of March 2015, the Inventory Project is still working away at organizing the collection. In the spirit of transparency, the staff of the BHS welcomes any member or citizen of the county to come into the museum and see where we're at with the Inventory Project. Anyone who comes in and asks to see our process will be shown what we have completed and what is left to do.



In total 28,608 artifacts out of roughly 80,000+ have been digitized and entered into the museum's database. Of this number, 8,619 have been entered in the last year and a half by 31 staff, students, and volunteers. This number does not include the numerous entries the inventory staff has corrected over the past year and a half. Of this number 5,983 items were added by the four members of the inventory staff, 889 by their staff members, 1,579 by students and 168 were entered by volunteers. As you can see a lot has been accomplished since the beginning of the Inventory Project, but we still have a fair ways to go.

This being said, we are still working on the attic and currently working on the museum's large textile collection. We anticipated that we would be finished this section come the summer. The overall speed of the Inventory Project has decreased as the members have been tasked with numerous other

responsibilities and we lost a full time staff member in September of 2014. However, the members of the Inventory Project are doing all they can to ensure the safety and proper organization of the artifacts and archival materials, which are physical representations of this county and its people's history and culture.

