

BRANT HISTORICAL — SOCIETY —

Dear Member:

As you are aware, 2017 has been an exciting year for the *Brant Historical Society* and I'm eager to share some of the things we have been able to provide to you as a member of the Society.

It was a year of change and renewal for the society that has started us on a positive path towards becoming the kind of institution that I know we can be.

Here are some of the highlights of 2017:

- We kicked off the Canada 150 celebrations with a **John A. Macdonald Dinner** at the Brantford Club in January. That was followed in June with our Confederation Picnic at Myrtleville House.
- There were **thirteen walking tours** offered that highlighted the stories of Brantford, but also, those of Paris and Mount Pleasant.
- There were **four speakers** covering topics that included the Gretzky family and the association with the First World War, presented by Zig Misiak. There was **Return to Vimy** when Peter Farrugia explored the selection of Vimy as the European memorial site for Canadian soldiers. In the fall we **returned to 1967** with Bill Darfler when our members reminisced but also learned of events they weren't aware of in their tender years. We concluded the year by learning about **women's suffrage in Ontario achieving of the vote 100 years ago**, with the vote granted federally the following year.
- We repeated our very successful **Excursion Day event** in May to get some seldom seen experiences during **Museum Month**. There was a **behind-the-scenes tour of the Sanderson Centre**, followed by an **exploration of the city greenhouses** in West Brantford. **Lunch was at Myrtleville** where several artifacts not normally on display were highlighted, with the day rounded out at the **Ontario Genealogical Society-Brant** branch to learn about the resources available to people researching their family. Again, this year, we arranged a "surprise" stop which was to the offices of **MMMC Architects** where we saw how a distinguished heritage home could be re-purposed; learned about the firm's various projects; and, explored the archived drawings of famous **Brantford architect, F.C. Bodley**.
- While many of us were disappointed to see the museum closed for a time, the six-month closure allowed staff and volunteers to do an excellent job of cataloguing and storing the artifacts that have been acquired over 110 years.
- This work was concluded with a **grand re-opening in November** that saw **four additional galleries** to present many of these previously unknown artifacts. It has been inspiring. Now the focus moves to the archive collection.

It is hoped you agree that this has been a very successful year for you and all members of this Society, because this is the time to renew your membership. Just to let you know, we have big plans for 2018, so watch your e-mail for the announcements of various coming events.

Sincerely,



Tim Philp,
President,
Brant Historical Society



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Your History Matters