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Autumn, 2005

Brantford's Duncan brothers remembered

Compiled by Robert L. Deboer

This is Part 2 of Robert Deboer's article from the Summer issue. Part 1 explored the life of Robert Kennedy Duncan.

Norman Duncan (1871-1916) Photo courtesy of the Brant Museum & Archives laid to rest in his

orman Duncan was born in Brantford in 1871 and became a celebrated author. The host of American readers of his fascinating tales would probably have been astonished to learn that he was born in Brantford, educated at the University of Toronto and, through all his years of residence the United States. retained his Canadi-

an citizenship. Upon his death, he was native town. The

quality of Norman Duncan's work placed him in the high ranks of short story tellers.

In his early life he became associated with newspaper work and after graduating from the University of Toronto, the lure of the "'fourth estate" led him again to enter that field and become a member of the staff of the New York Evening Post, where he remained for some years. The fact had become firmly established that Norman Duncan was possessed of a genius which transcended the ephemeral life of newspaper columns and on behalf of McClure's, and later Harper's Monthly, magazines, he travelled extensively throughout Newfoundland, Labrador, Australia, the Dutch East Indies and many other lands, from which he sent delightful stories of the lives, manners and customs of their inhabitants. His observations during the course of these wanderings offered him the material for a notable series of books. His Dr. Luke of the Labrador brought him instant fame and others of his many works included: The Way of the Sea, The Mother, Dr. Grenfell's Parish, The Adventure of Billy Topsail, The Cruise of the Shining Light, Every Man for Himself, The Suitable Child, Billy Topsail and Company, Going Down to Jerusalem, The Measure of a Man, The Best of a Bad Tale, A God in Israel, Australian Byways, Battles Royal Down North, and Harbor Tales Down North.

Short stories continued to emanate from his pen and Pierre Loti, the eminent French exponent of this class of literature, characterized the work of Norman Duncan in this respect as the finest of its kind among all his contemporaries. This verdict was endorsed by many other leading critics.

Among his other activities, Norman Duncan was for varying periods Professor of English Literature at the University of Kansas and Professor of Rhetoric at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pa.

Norman Duncan was unmarried and, although he had large financial returns from his successful literary efforts, his generosity kept him poor. When he died suddenly during a golf game in Dunkirk, N.Y., on Oct. 18, 1916, at age 45, the world lost a man of brilliant gifts and still greater promise. His remains were returned to

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Celebrating 97 years of preserving local history

President's Reflections

read in this issue of Reflections. I would like to bring you up to date on two events that occurred over the past few weeks.

Most importantly, we said goodbye to our director/curator, Stacey McKellar. Stacey joins her partner at his new work location in Vacaville, Ca. Stacey was with the museum for over six years, beginning as assistant curator, then replacing Elizabeth Hunter as curator. The BMA continued to grow during her tenure and Stacey was able to find funding for a number of innovative programs. However, I give Stacey particular credit for fostering better working relations with other museums and community groups. It has been a pleasure working with her over the years — I know my wife and I have come to regard Stacey as both a colleague and a friend. We wish Stacey well in her future endeavours and we will be thinking of her enjoying the California sun when winter arrives here.

In Stacey's absence, the board has decided to split some of her duties between Carrie Sorensen and Cindy MacDonald. Carrie will pick up duties associated with Stacey's curatorial functions, while Cindy will take over some financial and administrative tasks. I will try to spend a bit more time at the museum until we have sorted out a longer-term plan for replacing Stacey. In the meantime, there are a number of discrete projects where volunteer assistance would help us get over this period and I would be pleased to hear from any of our members.

On a totally different subject, I want to advise members

that the BMA has offered a number of items from the Harrison Scheak collection for sale to other public institutions that are members of the Canadian Museum Association. We have discussed the reasons for this at some of our general meetings, but it is important for me to repeat them here because the BMA normally does not de-accession artifacts once they have been accepted for storage and display. The Harrison Scheak collection was given to us under special arrangements with its own set of legal agreements that permit de-accessioning and sale under certain circumstances and we feel the current situation demands action.

Harrison Scheak donated a very eclectic collection to our museum. It included a number of artifacts and archival materials that were reproductions, damaged or too fragile to display. The collection itself is an uncomfortable fit with our mandate that focuses on the history of our local community, although some of the artifacts and archival materials supplement our displays and programs very nicely. Finally, the costs of managing the collection have become prohibitive and the trust set up to support the collection appears to have been largely exhausted. In discussions with the estate executor, it was felt that the collection could be culled with the best and most relevant parts of the collection retained and funds obtained from the sale of artifacts used to better promote and display the residual collection. Museum policies require that artifacts first be offered to public institutions before any public sale.

More will be said on organizational arrangements at the museum and the Scheak collection at our general meetings. Hope to see you soon.

Robert Glass

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors

President Robert Glass
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Brant Museum & Archives

57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6 519-752-2483

Admission: Adults \$2.00 Seniors/Students \$1.50 Children \$1.25 Under 6 free B.H.S. members free Hours: Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m Saturday 1 to 4 p.m.

For July and August: Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. Web site: www.brantmuseum.ca

The Museum in the Square A Satellite of the Brant Museum & Archives

Main Level, Market Square Mall 1 Market St., Brantford, Ontario 519-752-8578

Admission by voluntary donation Hours: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For July, August and December: Open Saturday

Curator's Corner

his will be my last Curator's Corner. As most of you know, I have decided to move on after six years at the museum. Paul found a new job and we have been living in California for about a month now. We are living in Northern California, about half way between San Francisco and Sacramento, in a city called Vacaville. It's very hot and sunny here and the amazing part is that my garden has a lemon tree and other plants usually reserved for the house. It's definitely a different

experience out here but a great adventure nonetheless.

I want to thank all of you for making my time in Brantford so memorable. You allowed me to learn about the vast and fascinating history that is Brantford and Brant County. I was given a phenomenal opportunity to grow professionally and personally. You took a chance on a young curator and for that I thank you.



I am going to miss all of my friends and colleagues, my "museum family." All of the volunteers who helped with special events, fundraisers, bingos and all of the everyday happenings. I especially want to recognize the contributions of a few very dedicated volunteers who came in every week without fail to work in the library and with the collection — Irene Rae, Joyce Armstrong, Nelson Krantz, and the late Jean Fisher. You helped to lighten the load, offer words of encouragement and made Wednesday afternoons a time to look forward to.

I'd also like to thank everyone who helped with bingo. Our amazing board members who came out: Glenn and Julie Gillis, Bob and Margaret Glass, David and Janet Partridge (who made it a family affair and brought their daughters), and John Wyatt. As well as our other regulars, Cliff Jones, Steve Polacko, Paul Bergasse, Ron Moshoian, and Caralyn Stradiotto. You all helped to relieve the stress and burden on the staff and it is greatly appreciated. The museum could not function without the revenue generated by bingo and your contributions cannot be thanked enough.

And the staff, without whom I would have lost my sanity years ago. There was an atmosphere of teamwork and camaraderie that made coming to work every day a pleasure. Colleen Cross, for her quiet encouragement and hard work at the Museum in the Square and in all things published, including this newsletter. Maggie Ord, for her work with the education program. She was baptized by fire last year with the Christmas program (and succeeded with flying colours) and is gearing up for another season. Carrie Sorensen, for her work with the collections and seniors program. It's been her job for the last year and a

half to register and catalogue the artifacts coming in. Not an easy accomplishment considering all of the other demands, such as exhibits, research requests and spending time at Myrtleville. She will definitely have her work cut out for her in the coming months, but I am sure that she is up to the challenge. And last but not least, Cindy MacDonald, who is absolutely a jack-of-all-trades. I think the only thing she hasn't done is to catalogue artifacts. It was five years ago that Cindy was just hired, Elizabeth Hunter left and we had a Christmas program to run. It was challenging, to say the least, but gave us both the opportunity to interact in all aspects of the museum and proved to be an intensive training tool. And it forged an amazing friendship. Cindy's experience, knowledge of and ties to the community are invaluable assets for the museum. Also, I'd like to thank past museum staff, Elizabeth Hunter and Sonia Mrva, who took a chance on a young summer student and who taught me many things Brantford. Susan Gonzalez, who worked for two years on a Trillium grant to get the incredible photograph collection onto a searchable database that has helped with so many exhibits and research requests. Her determination, organizational skills and love for AC/DC helped her to plow through thousands of images. And Debbie Olsen, who resurrected our children's education programs. She took existing programs and made them fit with the Ontario curriculum and created new ones, filling them with fun and learning — a very delicate balancing act. She and her family have been back in South Africa for a year now and are thriving, but I still miss her accent and nutty sense of humour.

I know that the museum faces many challenges. But the collections are phenomenal assets that, if utilized to their full potential, will expand and benefit the museum's mission, exhibits, programs and research capabilities. We are all stewards of the area's heritage and it is our responsibility to put the collections, the citizens of Brant and future generations ahead of personal agendas and biases. With sound business and professional museum ethics and practices, I know that the Brant Museum & Archives will expand, thrive and continue to educate and entertain generations to come. The Brant Historical Society has a 97year history and the museum has been at 57 Charlotte Street for 53 years. With this kind of track record we should be able to build a lasting legacy. It's so hard to say goodbye. I learned so much about Brantford and Brant County and came to love the history, past accomplishments and potential of the area. The people are what brings this history to life.

I will keep you updated on life out here and will be sure to visit. I will miss Ontario (maybe not the snow), but will content myself with the sun, palms and citrus trees. Thanks again for my memories. Stacey McKellar

Duncan brothers' plaques in Preston Park

Continued from Front Page

Brantford for interment in Greenwood Cemetery.

The Brant Historical Society had, as early as 1920, proposed a memorial to honour Norman and Robert Kennedy Duncan, but due to a lack of interest and insufficient funding, little materialized. In 1921, there is brief mention in society minutes of a proposed Norman Duncan Jubilee, but again, nothing further materialized. In 1979, a Duncan Plaque committee was organized, under the sponsorship of Brantford City Council, Brant County Council, the Brant Historical Society and the Royal Canadian Legion and was composed of the following: Kenneth Ruddy, formerly of Ruddy Manufacturing (the prede-Hussman's cessor of Refrigeration), chairman; Mayor Charles Bowen; Alan Young, president of the Brant Historical Society; J.A.D. Slemin, Q.C.;

S.E. Wyatt, Q.C., a member of the Brant Historical Society; Gordon Crocock, past president of the Royal Canadian Legion; Walter Rutherford, a member of the Brant Historical Society and history researcher for the committee; and Marjorie Lester, secretary for the committee.

On July 3, 1979, an article was published in The Brantford Expositor with the following headline:

HISTORIC PLAQUES HONOR BRANTFORD BROTHERS

The accompanying article included the following:

Robert Kennedy Duncan who advanced American industrial research and his brother, Author Norman Duncan, were honored here Sunday.

Brant County Council, the Brant Historical Society and members of the Royal Canadian Legion sponsored ceremonies at Lansdowne Public School and Preston Park to dedicate and unveil two plaques in memory of the brothers.



A plaque honouring Norman Duncan is unveiled in Brantford's Preston Park near the intersection of Dufferin and Parkside avenues in July 1979. A second plaque honouring Robert Kennedy Duncan had also been unveiled in the park that day.

Photo courtesy of the Brant Museum & Archives

Dr. G. A. Webb, president emeritus of the Carnegie-Mellon Institute of Research, attended the plaque dedication ceremonies here.

Dr. Webb said Mr. Duncan realized the most important function of a university was not only to "increase knowledge among men, but useful knowledge." This led to the publication of Mr. Duncan's three books on chemical science.

He said Robert Duncan was the "inspiration" behind the concept of using the services of qualified American scientists to develop the process of industry.

Kenneth Ruddy, chairman of the Duncan Plaque committee, presented the commemorative address on Norman Duncan.

Mr. Ruddy said that Norman Duncan's writings about the people of Canada's east illustrated the special bond Newfoundlanders have with the sea. Besides writing for Harper's Magazine in the U.S., Norman Duncan also wrote 20 books, one of which was called Going Down to Jerusalem.

The book was illustrated by Brantford native, artist

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Lawren Harris, one of the Group of Seven painters.

The unveiling of the plaques took place in Preston Park across from Lansdowne School.

Mrs. John McIntyre, granddaughter of Robert Duncan, unveiled the marker honoring her grandfather.

Miss Susan Duncan, niece of Norman Duncan, and Norman Duncan Marvel, son of Josiah Manuel Marvel, a close friend of the Duncan family, unveiled the plaque honoring the Canadian writer.

The plaques were later dedicated by Rev. Fred Starkey

of Brantford.

Mayor Charles Bowen was chairman throughout the program. Other guests were Norris Barbe, executive vice-president of the Carnegie-Mellon Institute, and Robert Bowman, director of materials technology at the institute. Onondaga Reeve J.S. McBlain and Ald. John Starkey also attended the ceremonies.

The Duncan plaques are set among shrubbery in Preston Park near the intersection of Dufferin Avenue and Parkside Drive and are inscribed as follows:

NORMAN DUNCAN 1871-1916

Born in Brantford and later living in Mitchell, Duncan attended University of Toronto 1891-95. He followed his brother Robert to U.S.A. and received his Litt. D. from University of Pittsburgh and professorships in rhetoric and Eng. Lit at two large universities, later becoming editor of New York's most literary daily, The Evening Post.

Duncan's writings describe life in many lands. "Going Down to Jerusalem" is illustrated by Lawren S. Harris famous Brantford born artist. Many of his 20 novels depict in rhythmic sea cadence the rugged life and fatalism of the Newfoundland fisherman.

Thrilling sea adventures for boys complement his work.

In a stirring tribute by 500 members of the Canadian Literary Club in 1922, Duncan was named "The Dickens of Canada."

In February 1978, C.F. Poole of the Newfoundland Historic Society wrote: "The brilliance of Duncan's insights into the sea touched of the Newfoundlander has never been surpassed."

ROBERT KENNEDY DUNCAN 1868-1914

Born in Brantford and receiving his early education here and in Mitchell, Ontario, Duncan was graduated in 1891 from University of Toronto with first class honours in Chemistry and Physics. Pursuing advanced studies in Europe and the United States, he received an Honorary Degree of Sc. D. in 1913 from Pittsburgh University.

His brilliant conception of creating Industrial Fellowships to solve the problems of industry was successfully tested at University of Kansas and was later espoused by Andrew and Richard Mellon, bankers and philanthropists, who provided funds to establish Mellon Institute of Research at Pittsburgh where technicians (Fellows) sent by Industry could benefit from modern facilities and qualified staff.

Dr. Duncan was thus the Founder of Mellon Institute and its first Director. His graphic books and articles on science are still remembered and consulted.

Reserve your copy!

Sources

City of Brantford cemetery records

The Brantford Expositor, Centennial Edition. July 1, 1927.

The Expositor. July 3, 1979.

Farringdon Burial Ground cemetery records

History of the County of Brant. F. Douglas Reville, 1920. Minutes of the Brant Historical Society

Coming soon from BHS: Brantford's Link to Greatness



Brantford has long beamed with pride at its status as The Telephone City. Best-selling Brantford author Albert VanderMey celebrates this pride in Bell's character and accomplishments from a Brantfordian perspective. Like the telephone, this pictorial biography uses Brantford as its starting point, but moves on to explore the many facets of the inventor's full life — his work with the deaf and mute, his visionary inventions, his aerial and hydroplane experimentation, his humanitarian efforts and his rich family life — and, like Bell himself, revisits the city to witness Brantford's enduring love for its most famous son.

This charming and accessible hardcover book, featuring more than 200 images — photographs, sketches, drawings and documents — will enlighten history buffs, Bell enthusiasts, students and anyone who appreciates a life well lived.

Bright students enliven summer at museum

y name is Drew Hussey, and if you have stopped in to the museum this summer, we may have met. I was the staff researcher on a summer Human Resources Development Canada grant.

I am a Brantfordian and also a student at Wilfrid Laurier University, Brantford Campus. I have tried to stay active on campus by taking on many different roles, including that of tour guide, organizer of our first student-operated orientation week, the student paper, and the activities council.

I am slowly working on a double major in Religion and Culture/Anthropology, with field work in Archeology. I have been part of Gary Warrick's Davisville and Early 1800s Six Nations research project here in Brantford and Brant County for the past three years.

My regular duties include conducting and assisting with research for private individuals and corporate projects. I help to maintain the library and information files, and this summer we have done a great deal of work on our library by completely reassembling it, a task long overdue. Some drawers were so full that getting files out was like pulling teeth! I'm happy to report that with the additional space this will no longer be a problem, and it will allow the museum's information files room to continue to grow. Stop by our library sometime and take a look at the changes.

I am genuinely thankful to have met so many people in our community, not to mention the people who came from all over to visit us. This international interest amazes me and shows how we need this museum in our community.

I would like to thank the staff here at the museum, all of whom have been amazing to work with, and who have created an extremely friendly working environment. I also would like to thank BHS members Robert and Margaret Glass, and Mike and Delia O'Byrne, all of whom have been extremely helpful and have made working here such a pleasure. It has also been a great privilege to work with volunteers Nelson Krantz and Irene Rae, who have been incredibly friendly and taught me a lot. I would especially like to thank Wayne Hunter for letting me constantly pick his brain concerning local history, for all of his help, and particularly for the amount of time he spent teaching me about historical detective work and local research methods. I don't think enough people realize the amount of volunteer work Wayne does for the museum, and I'd like to recognize his contributions.

I consider myself lucky to have worked at the museum, and privileged to have learned as much as I have during my time here. I have always enjoyed local history, but working here has created such an enthusiasm for learning as much as I can about the history of our community that I really feel this experience has added depth to my education. This great opportunity has really defined my own personal expectations and helped me realize how I want to direct my future course of study.



Volunteer Kyle Gledhill (left), Vanessa Musson (third from left) and Kimberly Jamont (second from right) go Hawaiian with happy campers.

y name is Kimberly Jamont, and this is my second summer at the Brant Museum & Archives. I thoroughly enjoyed my time here as the Summer Camp Co-ordinator. It was not without challenges, but I enjoyed tackling them and trying to find new ways to promote the museum's summer camps to the community. This summer we were only able to implement two camps: "Under the Sea" and "Hawaiian Hoopla." They were a tremendous amount of fun for Vanessa (our Summer Camp Assistant) and me to prepare and run. The campers were a great group and our volunteers - Kathryn Beemer, Rachel Wyatt and Kyle Gledhill — were wonderful. I also was given the opportunity to do some of the Senior Outreach programs. It was new territory for me, but I enjoyed the chance to interact with another demographic and to bring part of the collection to those who would not otherwise see it. I also spent time creating and dispersing advertisements for our curriculumbased education programs and outreach programs, which I hope will bring the community and museum together. It has been a pleasure working with the museum staff and summer students. As I begin my teaching career this fall, I take with me all the learning and experiences I've gained from the museum — a unique experience I truly appreciate.

y name is Vanessa Musson. I am entering Grade 12 at North Park Collegiate. I was the Summer Camp Assistant this summer at the museum. I have an interest in working with children in the future, so I thought this would be a great experience for me. I worked with Kimberly Jamont planning and running two camps. Kimberly and I had a great time with the camps and the kids seemed to have an awesome time too! I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to plan and run most of the "Hawaiian Hoopla" camp. This was a great growing experience for me. I also took part in the Teddy Bear Picnic at Myrtleville House and helped out at the Museum in the Square on a couple of Saturdays. Overall, this has been an amazing summer! I have learned a lot and was able to work with some awesome people. I really appreciate the opportunity I had to work at the museum.

MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our new members

Margaret Dowden Edward Morwick

Welcome to our new corporate sponsor

AMEC Earth and Environmental

Corporate sponsors

EXTEND Communications Inc.
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Raymond Industrial Equipment Limited
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Roger Sharpe
Jonathan Shrubsole

Donors 2005

Dorothy Deville, Margaret Dowden, Robert Glass, Robert Perry, John Wyatt

Acknowledgments

The Brant Historical Society gratefully acknowledges support from the County of Brant, the City of Brantford and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Endowment Fund: The interest from this fund goes to the operation of the museum.

Acquisition Fund: This fund is used to acquire and conserve artifacts.

Building Fund: This fund will be used for the museum — to renovate the existing building, to buy a new building and to renovate it, or to build a brand new museum.

Operations Fund: This fund is used for the daily operations of the museum, including staffing and programming. Special Projects Fund: This fund will be used to complete special projects — some current projects include the Settlement Gallery, a new reception desk and repairs to the glass enclosure.

DONATIONS

In memory of Jeremy Atkins Cindy MacDonald-Krueger

In memory of Daisy Krantz Nelson Krantz In memory of Bernice Sitzer William Fuller

In memory of Leroy Sitzer William Fuller

A Brant Historical Society membership offers ...

- free admission to the Brant Museum & Archives, Bell Homestead and Myrtleville House Museum (excluding special events)
- exemption from personal research fees in our archives
- bulletins about upcoming museum activities
- subscription to the "B.H.S. Quarterly"
- · discounts on Heritage Bus Tours, Children's Museum Club and other programs
- 10% discount on gift shop purchases over \$20

Categories and fees

Benefactor	\$500.00+
Patron	\$200.00+
Friend	\$100.00+
Supporter	\$50.00
Family (2)	\$30.00
Individual	\$20.00
Student	\$15.00

Happenings

Brant Museum & Archives

Exhibits

Brant Visual Artists Guild show and sale, Museum in the Square, Oct. 3 to Oct. 28, 2005.

New at the gift shop

Norfolk Folk: Immigrants and Migrants in Norfolk County, by Cheryl MacDonald, \$30.

Richard Beasley and the German Companies, by David Beasley. \$3.50.

St. George: From Bauslaugh's Mill to the Present, by Douglas A. Mannen, \$10.

Zehrs' tapes

Please continue to save your Zehrs' tapes for the museum!

Thank you

To Robert Glass for donating his time and the costs of upgrading our two computer hard drives.

Doors Open Brant: Saturday, Sept. 24

Don't forget to visit various free sites in Brantford and Brant County — all at no charge. Bring the family and explore places not normally open to the public.

Ontario Genealogical Society Brant County branch

Sept. 25, 2005, 2 p.m.

Speaker: Mark Steinacher on Baptist Church Archival Records. Location: Brantford Tourism Centre, 399 Wayne Gretzky Parkway.

Oct. 29, 2005, fall workshop, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Speakers: Heather Ibbotson on Canadians in the American Civil War; and Fraser Dunford on Municipal Records in Ontario. Location: Smokey Hollow Estates Country Club, 114 Powerline Rd.

Nov. 27, 2005, 2 p.m.

Speakers: Toni Roberts and Des Rasch on Early Surveyors Augustus Jones and Lewis Burwell. Location: Smokey Hollow Estates Country Club, 114 Powerline Rd.

Questions?

Call 519-753-8581 or fax 519-752-2025.



Brant Historical Society

General meetings

Brant Museum & Archives, 57 Charlotte St., 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 21, 2005 "It's Your Turn": Contact John Bonfield at 759-8413 if you have an artifact with a story you'd like to share with the membership. Speakers may be limited to five minutes each.

Oct.19, 2005 To be announced

Nov.16, 2005 BHS Wall of Honour inductee

Dec. 21, 2005 David Judd, managing editor of The Expositor, will bring to life Christmas 1905 through newspaper stories and advertisements.

Brantford Film Group

The Brantford Film Group is a fundraiser for the Brant Historical Society. Films are screened on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from October through May at the Cineplex Odeon Brantford Mall Cinemas at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the museum. Box office tickets are \$8 and are purchased at the door. Visit www.brantmuseum.ca for film details.

Sept. 22 Dear Frankie (UK, rated PG)

Emily Mortimer stars as the single mother of nine-year old Frankie, who has always been told that his father is a sailor, perennially absent on his ship. The boy faithfully corresponds with his dad – not realizing that his mother is really his pen pal. When a ship with the same name as the father's fictitious vessel pulls into port, the subterfuge gets more complicated.

Oct. 13 The Constant Gardener (USA/UK, rated 14+)

Oct. 27 Sabeh (Canada, rated PG)

Nov. 10 Mad Hot Ballroom (USA, rated PG)

Nov. 24 Ladies in Lavender (UK, rated PG)

Dec. 8 Water (Canada/India, not rated)

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