



BHS Quarterly

Volume XIII, No. 1

Brant Historical Society 2006 ISSN 1201-4028

Spring, 2006

Memorializing Arthur Sturgis Hardy

Compiled by Robert L. Deboer



Arthur Sturgis Hardy

which involved participation by the Brant Historical Society in varying degrees.

Courthouse tablet

The first proposal in 1920 resulted solely from the efforts of the Brant Law Association and involved the placement of a bronze tablet in the Brant County Courthouse, where it remains today. Reville's *History of the County of Brant* contains the following account of the efforts of the law association:

On Thursday, April 1, 1920, in the Brantford Court House, the unveiling took place of a bronze tablet in memory of this distinguished Brant County son, Arthur Sturgis Hardy. Although nineteen years had passed since his demise, the attendance of representative men of Ontario, and citizens of Brantford, Paris and the County, amply serve to demonstrate that his worth and his achievements still remained in active remembrance. The tablet, the admirable work of the Toronto sculptress, Miss Francis Loring, is situated in the main entrance hall. It is surmounted by a life-like

medallion in profile of the honourable gentleman and this inscription follows:

Arthur Sturgis Hardy
Born Mt. Pleasant, Brant County, 1837
Died, Toronto, 1901

Who began in this Court House the practice of law. The talents here developed he devoted to the service of his Country, representing the South Riding of Brant in the Legislature of this Province for Twenty-six years and was successively, Provincial Secretary, Commissioner of Crown lands, Attorney-General and Prime Minister of Ontario.

Erected by the Bar of Brant County in admiration of his virtues and affection for his memory.

...

Probably the greater interest attached to the speech of Sir John Gibson, a cabinet colleague for many years of Mr. Hardy, and later Lieut.-Governor of the Province. He told of his industry and immense capacity for work, and in this regard dwelt upon the fact that the deceased statesman always prepared his own bills instead, as now, of having them drafted by law clerks, or highly paid professional men. Others of the many characteristics dwelt upon, included Mr. Hardy's eloquence as a speaker and readiness in debate; his immense labor in the revision and amendment of the earlier laws of the Province; his initiation of many highly important measures, and his scrupulous and increasing care, both as Minister and Premier, in maintaining absolute economy and strict regularity. "With his high standing as a lawyer and marvelous ability as a prominent

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Celebrating 98 years of preserving local history

President's Reflections

On Feb. 15 we held our Annual General Meeting. It was gratifying to see more than 50 members come out because we had some very important issues to discuss. I would like to use this issue of the newsletter to repeat some of the remarks I made at the meeting.

Delia O'Byrne gave a presentation on progress being made under the Heritage Partners initiative. A key point was that a consulting firm is now working on a feasibility study. This study will determine whether the partners should proceed to work towards a new heritage centre and, if so, where it should be located. This is an exciting project that could see the development of one of the largest museum and archival centres in Ontario. It is also an ambitious project that will demand huge investments for capital funding and operating costs. One of the consulting firm's first tasks will be to assure us that the museum's partners — and that includes the City, County and other levels of government, as well as the proponents — are all on board. If we get a positive response from this study, it will provide a long-term road map for our future development.

In the meantime, the society needs to look after its own business. The year has started well with the election of a larger Board of Directors that includes a number of new faces. They have had their first few meetings and have already developed some priorities for 2006. A publicity committee has been set up as a sub-committee of the Membership, Marketing and Promotions committee. They have struck a Centennial Celebration committee to develop a series of celebratory programs for our 100th anniversary in 2008. Finally, a fundraising committee is being developed and approval has been given to recruit an Executive Director.

One of our priorities is clearing up the clutter in the

museum. This will allow us to make better use of the program and display areas and improve visitors' first impressions of the museum. Another priority is to clean up and refresh the displays at 57 Charlotte St. While the current displays are interesting and well put together, they could be improved by better labeling and regular rotation of the artifacts.

Members and visitors who have done research at the museum may have had the opportunity to take advantage of our electronic database. Completing this database — which will eventually include electronic images of our photographic collection, our artifacts and parts of our archival records — is another priority. We are very close to having entered digitized images of all of our 7,000 photographs into the database, and we have taken the first steps to photograph and digitally record our textile collection. We have recently acquired a new high-quality printer with the financial assistance of the Friends of the Archives of Ontario, and can now professionally reproduce and frame photographs at the museum. We used our new equipment to develop an interactive display at the Ford Plant, an art gallery and music venue located at 1 King St. The exhibit runs to the end of March.

Some of you may have noticed that you are getting e-mail reminders about our meetings. We need to make better use of technology at the museum and we hope to make our database available directly to researchers and ultimately to potential visitors to do virtual tours of our facility over the Internet.

There is much more that I will review in future newsletters. In summary, while 2005 was a busy year, we have a lot of work on our plate in 2006. Our first responsibility is to put our own house in order if we are going to move forward.

Robert Glass

Coming this April from the Brant Historical Society *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.

CONTACT THE MUSEUM FOR DETAILS AND TO JOIN OUR WAITING LIST.

Curator's Corner

Happy New Year to all our Members! It certainly has been a mild winter this year and the staff at the Museum have enjoyed seeing our members a little more frequently as the weather has been so kind to us. 2006 has started off on the right foot here at the Museum. We are excited to have Rob Michalchuk continue on as Registrar thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which granted us a continuation of our database project. He will be inputting the artifact collection into the Past Perfect database which will provide ease of access for our collection, both for staff and researchers.

This New Year we welcomed a new co-operative student from Pauline Johnson Collegiate. Jordan Davey, a Grade 9 student, will be assisting with curatorial work until June. He will be learning different aspects of this type of work, including collections management, archival research, exhibit research and design.

In 2005 the Museum in the Square had a couple of issues which deterred the development of temporary exhibits in the gallery space. There were several leaks in the exhibit space that prevented us from displaying artifacts. The staff were also preparing for a move to another space in the Market Square Mall, but were informed in

late fall that we would not need to move from our present location. A collection of Scheak paintings and accessory furniture is now on display at the Museum in the Square until May 4, 2006.

If you have been reading your Expositor lately, you may have seen our Registrar, Rob Michalchuk, in the Campus pages. We are proud to have had Rob and photographer Stephanie Rymon-Lipinski prepare an exhibit on behalf of the Brant Museum & Archives. Using photographs from the museum's collection, the exhibit gives the youth of Brantford a vision of what downtown Brantford was in its heyday, compared with present-day pictures of the same areas. Visitors are asked to match the old photos with present-day photographs to test their knowledge of Brantford history. The exhibit is called "Brantford: Changing Faces" and is on display at the Ford Plant, 1 King St., until the end of March.

This year looks to be a promising one. From our progressive changes in the programming room to new and exciting exhibit ideas, the Brant Museum & Archives is planning to give tourists and local visitors a vibrant location to discover the history of this great area.

Carrie Sorensen

Memorializing Arthur Sturgis Hardy

Continued from Front Page

and effective counsel he could, by exclusive devotion to his profession, have derived a large income and become financially independent, whereas it is well known that after twenty-six years of laborious public life, he retired from the position of First Minister, a poor man. Few men in public life have deserved more or received less.

Mr. W.F. Cockshutt, M.P., during the course of his tribute, bore testimony, as a political opponent, to the sledge hammer blows which Mr. Hardy could deliver on the hustings, while Sir John Gibson mentioned a sometimes quickness of temper as one of the characteristics over which Mr. Hardy often grieved, but the big heart of the man was there notwithstanding.

Mr. A.C. Hardy, Brockville, eldest surviving son of the late Premier, made an eloquent speech of acknowledgment in which he aptly said that "service" had been the dominating force throughout his father's life.

The family representatives present were Judge Hardy, brother; Mrs. A.D. Hardy, Miss Doris Hardy and Mr. Arthur Hardy, Brantford; Mr. A.C. Hardy, Brockville; Dr. P. Hardy, Toronto, sons, and Arthur Sturgis Hardy, Brockville, grandson.

The Brant Historical Society had no direct involvement in the proposal executed by the Brant Law Association. Mr. W.G. Raymond, who spoke at the unveiling and Judge A.D. Hardy, were both members of the society.

Failed proposal

The second proposal intended to honour the memory of Hardy, came solely through the efforts of the Brant Historical Society, initiated at its annual meeting on April 15, 1920. Unfortunately, it came to naught.

The April 16, 1920, edition of The Brantford Expositor, included the following headline:

Permanent Memorial of Hon. A.S. Hardy Favoured by
Brant Historical Society at Annual Meeting Last Night

The accompanying article included the following:

At the Annual Meeting of Brant Historical Society in the public library last night, Mr. S.F. Passmore, M.A., presented a resolution calling for early action in raising funds for a permanent memorial to the late A.S. Hardy. The motion read as follows:

That in the opinion of the Brant Historical Society, the time has come to adopt measures to perpetuate the memory of the late Hon. Arthur Sturgis Hardy, who of Brant County by birth, and premier of Ontario for several years, and to this end we request the representative bodies of the city and county to

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Memorializing Arthur Sturgis Hardy

Continued from Page 3

appoint committees to meet with a committee of the Brant Historical Society to formulate a plan for a suitable memorial in honour of the late premier.

Mr. Passmore spoke as a school boy friend of the late Mr. Hardy. Soon, he said, all those who had personally known the late premier would pass away and a memorial was needed to preserve the memory of Brantford's noted son. The opinion was that it was most appropriate that the Society take the necessary steps in urging action in the matter. Other local bodies would be consulted and later the government would be asked for aid in the matter. Rev. G.A. Woodside and Mr. T.W. Standing spoke shortly on the subject. A committee formed of the president, Mr. C.S. Tapscott, Rev. G.A. Woodside and Mr. Passmore was appointed to interview the various public organizations in connection with the proposed memorial.

At the annual meeting of the Brant Historical Society held on April 21, 1921, it was resolved that the society appeal to Brant County council to grant for the memorial a plot of property on the northeast corner of Wellington and Market streets which was occupied by the county land registry office, which was scheduled for demolition. A new land registry office was being constructed at the corner of George and Nelson streets, facing Wellington Street. Reverend Woodside suggested that officers of the society be a committee to interview Brant County council regarding the site of the Hardy memorial. It was further resolved by the meeting that S.F. Passmore be the official representative of the society on the Arthur Sturgis Hardy Memorial Association, which had been organized within the community.

Reverend Woodside reported to the Brant Historical Society on June 15, 1921, that he had interviewed Brant County council regarding the site of the proposed Hardy memorial at Wellington and Market streets, and that the council had agreed to reserve the site as requested.

The determination of the Brant Historical Society to honour Hardy was clearly exhibited, both in the society minutes and in The Brantford Expositor, but unfortunately, due to overwhelming community support for a campaign to erect a Brant County War Memorial, which seriously affected the collection of funds for the Hardy memorial, their efforts would prove to be for naught. Although it is clear that an Arthur Sturgis Hardy Memorial Association was established, there is nothing recorded to indicate how much community support was actually achieved for the proposal.

Mount Pleasant tablet

The third proposal to erect a memorial honouring Arthur Sturgis Hardy was successfully executed on Sept. 30, 1953, in Mount Pleasant, by the Government of Canada on the recommendation of the Dominion Historic Sites and Monuments Board.

On Oct. 1, 1953, The Brantford Expositor published an

article with the following headline:

Tribute is Paid to Noted Canadian

Bronze Tablet Honours
Mount Pleasant Native,
Hon. Arthur S. Hardy

The accompanying article included the following:

The career of Hon. Arthur Sturgis Hardy, a distinguished Canadian citizen, a native of the Village of Mount Pleasant, who became Premier of the Province of Ontario, was commemorated Wednesday night with the unveiling of a bronze tablet by the Government of Canada, in the Mount Pleasant Senior Public School.

The tablet was unveiled by his son, Senator A.C. Hardy, Brockville, who was assisted by his son, Arthur Sturgis Hardy, Ottawa.

The inscription reads:

Arthur Sturgis Hardy: Provincial Secretary of Ontario — 1887-1889; Commissioner of Crown Lands 1889-1896; Premier and Attorney General of Ontario, 1896-1899; Born at Mount Pleasant, 14th December 1837; Died in Toronto, 13th June 1901. Erected by the Government of Canada, Historic Sites and Monuments Board.

Descendants of many of the pioneer families of Mount Pleasant were guests at the ceremony which was attended by citizens from throughout Brant County, including representatives of Brantford Township Council and the Brant Historical Society.

Members of the Hardy family present in addition to Senator Hardy and his son Arthur Sturgis Hardy, were Arthur Curtis Hardy, Oakville, son of the late Judge A.D. Hardy, of this city and nephew of the late Premier; Mr. and Mrs. Pat Hardy, the former being a grandson of Hon. A.S. Hardy; Mrs. Pat Hardy's mother, Mrs. G. Lindley, Toronto, and Miss May Wilson, city.

Dr. Fred Landon, on presenting the plaque, paid tribute to the Hon. Sturgis Hardy as a distinguished Canadian citizen, a man who made a contribution to Canada and its development.

Dr. Landon sketched the early history of Arthur Sturgis Hardy who became the fourth Premier of the Province of Ontario, serving in office from 1896 to 1899. He spoke of his career as a lawyer in Brantford, noting in one single assize he had as many as 43 briefs. He commented that Brant County must have been rather wild, noting that between 1865 and 1877, Mr. Hardy was defending lawyer in no less than 18 murder cases.

Dr. Landon paid tribute to Mr. Hardy as an ardent conservationist. In the period up to 1896 he was responsible for the introduction of no less than 150 bills, the majority of which had to do with the natural resources of the Province, mines and

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Memorializing Arthur Sturgis Hardy

Continued from Page 4

mining, fisheries, public land, services of water power, public parks for recreation, all these and public health fell within the range of his interests. He stated that it was to Arthur Sturgis Hardy that we owe the present great Algonquin Park in Northern Ontario and the more nearby Rondeau park on Lake Erie and that he desired to preserve the natural beauty and life of these areas for the future enjoyment of the people of the Province.

Senator A.C. Hardy, was introduced by Senator W. Ross Macdonald as the son of a distinguished Canadian. Senator Macdonald referred to Senator Hardy's greatest interest in the militia, in industry, in private business, in philanthropic organizations, in all affairs of Canada.

Senator Hardy recalled the story often told him of his father's birth at Mount Pleasant during the stormy days of the Rebellion of 1837. One of his early memories was the occasion when his father was made Provincial Secretary. He was five years old at the time and ran crying to his mother because he was frightened by the torchlight procession and the band outside his house. He extended his personal appreciation to Dr. Landon for his kind words regarding his father.

Dr. Landon invited the members of the Hardy family, Senator and Mrs. Macdonald and Rev. A. Gardiner to adjourn from the auditorium to the upper hall of the school for the unveiling of the Plaque by Senator Hardy and his son.

The dedicatory prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Gardiner. The program closed with greetings from the Brant Historical Society brought by Walter D. Rutherford, First Vice President. Representatives of the Brant Historical Society were especially welcomed, in view of the fact that the late Judge A. D. Hardy, brother of the Premier, was the first President and for more than forty years, an interested member of the Society.

Brant Museum plaque

The fourth and final proposal to memorialize the achievements of Arthur Sturgis Hardy was concluded in Brantford on June 19, 1964, with the unveiling of a plaque on the front lawn of the Brant Museum at 57 Charlotte St. in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the Ontario Historical Society hosted by the Brant Historical Society.

The Brantford Expositor covered the event and ran a full page of stories about the importance of museums and historical societies.

The wording of the plaque, which remains at the museum, is as follows:

Hon. Arthur Sturgis Hardy
1837-1901

Ontario's fourth prime minister was born in Mount Pleasant, called to the Bar in 1865, and practised law in Brantford for



Photo courtesy of Brant Museum & Archives,
Image X9772.921

The last of three monuments to Arthur Sturgis Hardy was unveiled in 1964 in front of the Brant Historical Society Museum & Cultural Centre. From left to right, speakers were: George Gordon, MPP Brantford; Canon W.J. Zimmerman, rector of St. Paul's H.M. Chapel of the Mohawks; Robert Nixon, MPP Brant; Owen Loveless, deputy reeve of South Dumfries township; James A.C. Auld, Ontario's Minister of Tourism and Information; A.S. Hardy, Hardy's grandson; Andrew Taylor, past president of the Ontario Historical Society; Mrs. Howard Disher, president of the Brant Historical Society; Prof. J.M.S. Careless, co-chairman of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board; and Mayor Richard Beckett.

many years. In 1873 he was elected to the Ontario legislature and sat as a Liberal member for South Brant until 1899. Appointed provincial secretary and registrar in 1877, he became a commissioner of crown lands in 1889. Following the resignation of Sir Oliver Mowat in 1896, Arthur Hardy assumed the portfolios of prime minister and attorney general. During his regime, an extensive revision and consolidation of the province's statutes was completed. He retired from politics in 1899 and, until his death, held the positions of clerk of process and surrogate clerk at Osgoode Hall.

Sources

Reville, F.D. *History of the County of Brant*, 1920.
Minutes of the Brant Historical Society
The Brantford Expositor, April 16, 1920.
The Brantford Expositor, October 1, 1953.
The Brantford Expositor, June 20, 1964.

Do You Remember?



Photo courtesy of Brant Museum & Archives,
Image 5306

Above: This 1946 photo shows the west side of Market Street between Colborne and Darling streets. James A. Forte imported fruit market is at 48 Market St., and Silverstein's Fish at 54 Market St.
Right: The same scene in February 2006. These photos were part of *Brantford: Changing Faces* at the Ford Plant.



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Rymon-Lipinski

Endowment Fund needs your help!

The fund's interest supports the day-to-day operation of the Brant Museum & Archives. We urge you to consider making a donation to the fund, and here's how you can do so:

- Make a donation in memory of a friend or loved one;
- Earmark a direct donation for the Endowment Fund;
- Purchase a souvenir piece of the Brantford Street Railway, at the gift shop for \$100 (with a tax receipt) or \$35 (without a tax receipt);
- Give a gift in kind of property or stocks.

Please note that unused donations can be carried forward for up to five years. Also, when you donate more than \$200, the amount in excess of \$200 is eligible for tax credit at the highest marginal tax rate.

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Phone: 519-752-2483
E-Mail: smckellar@bellnet.ca

MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our new members

Kalvin Clark
Candice Grant
C. St. John Ludlow
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James Senn
Thelma Thomson

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Elizabeth Hartmann-Diegel

Friend
Robert Michalchuk

Supporter
Robert and Anne Deboer, Bill and Mary Derbyshire, Glenn and Julie Gillis, Leonard and Leah Park, Mary B. Stedman, Caralyn and David Stradiotto

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Don and Sharron Bradfield, Fred and Wanda Bradley, Henry and Jean Hedges, Michael and Delia O'Byrne, Jack and Jeanette Shaver, John and Heather Wyatt

Individual
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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 William Fuller
Brant Historical Society
Brant Museum & Archives staff
Calvin and Elizabeth Diegel
David Judd
Ruth Lefler
Joyce Rose Thomas

In memory of Maggie Heiszek
Paul and Cindy Krueger and family

In memory of Daisy Krantz
Nelson G. Krantz

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

Donors 2005/06

Diane P. Baltaz
John Bonfield
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Mary Gladwin
Monica Honeyman
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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

“A Scheak Sampler: A Glimpse of the Fine and Decorative Arts Collection of Harrison B. Scheak,” Museum in the Square, 1 Market St., December 2005 to May 4, 2006.

New at the gift shop

Brant Museum & Archives calendar, \$8.
Brantford Flying Club commemorative CD-Rom, with 150 images, \$10.
Brant's Best: Prominent Citizens of Brantford and Brant County (14-page booklet), by Robert L. Deboer, published by the Brant Historical Society, \$2.95.
Images of a City: Brantford 1895-1950, by Gary Muir, \$49.50.

In sympathy

William Fuller — to his family and friends

Zehrs' tapes

Please keep them coming to both museum sites!

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.



Brant Historical Society

General meeting

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

March 15, 2006 Bill Cockshutt will speak on “Opening Up the West: The Railroads, Immigration and the Farm Equipment Industry.”

April 19, 2006 To be announced

May 17, 2006 To be announced

June 21, 2006 To be announced

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.

March 23 *A Simple Curve* (Canada, rated 14A.)

April 13 *Her Majesty* (U.S., rated PG.)

April 27 To be announced

May 11 To be announced

Have your say!

This spring the Brantford Film Group will run the top two audience picks. Choose three: Eve and the Firehorse, Merry Christmas, Tsotsi, Mrs. Henderson Presents, The Rocket, Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story, Something New. Or suggest another. Call the museum with your choices or pick up a form on film night or at the museum.

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors

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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 and August: Open Saturday