



BHS Quarterly

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Winter, 2006

Pauline Johnson's Canoeing in Canada

As many of you know, for the last 18 months I have been reading the Expositors on microfilm at the Brantford Public Library, looking for information to add to our files.

From time to time, I discover stories about Brantford and Brant County that I wasn't aware of. Recently I came across an article by E. Pauline Johnson in The Brantford Expositor, July 7, 1893. At first glance, it seemed to be a reprint of an 1892 article entitled "45 miles on the Grand" that appeared in the Christmas edition of The Brantford Expositor. As I read the story, I realized it was as an article I hadn't seen before.

I found the story so charming, I thought I should share it with you, our readers. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

—Wayne Hunter

The Grand scenery seen by devotees of the sport.

A Hundred Mile Trip Down the Grand River from Elora to Brantford — The Glory of Running the Rapids — An Unheard of Feat for Women.

Three taut little basswood canoes, manned at the stern, maiden at the bow, six gleaming, agile paddles — and before us a run of ninety-seven miles on one of the most rollicking rivers in Ontario; who would ask more than this for a typical outing in merry May time? For days and days beforehand old cruisers had vainly tried to dissuade us from going. By "us" I mean the three girls who were mad enough to attempt running those wild rapids while the water was at flood height, and the river swollen by recent rains until its fury was threatening enough to lessen the desire for a spring cruise even in the sturdy hearts of some of our best club men. But what we three girls won't attempt in the way of an outdoor frolic, and the tasting of genuine Canadian sport is not worth the planning.

That canoeing is the most popular sport in the Canadas to-day is beyond dispute, and few are the back lakes, rivers and forest streams that have not mirrored paddle and Peterboro sail and bivouac; but never before has that stretch of the Grand which gallops between Elora and Brantford been run by ladies. Old canoeists told us we would never do it. They told our boys they would regret taking us before the first night closed; in that the cruise was too long, too arduous, too hazardous; but our three jolly comrades stood by us and declared that we girls would

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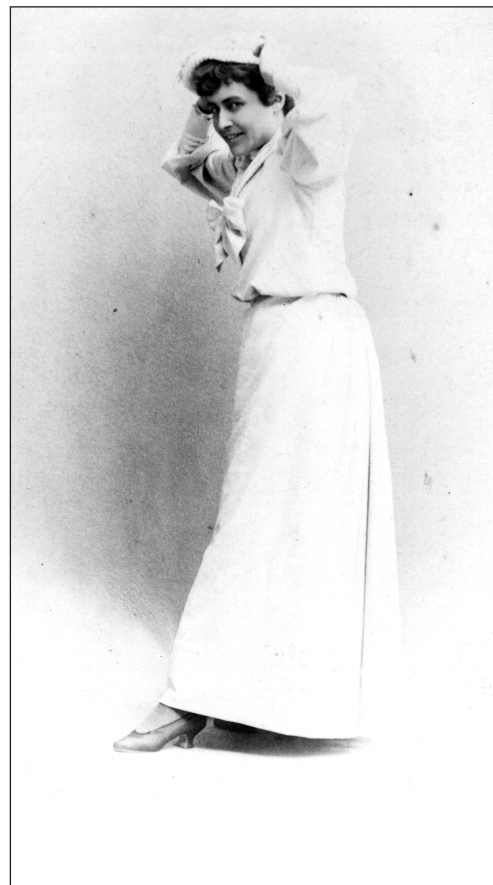


Photo courtesy of Brant Museum and Archives, Image 624

Pauline Johnson strikes a pose.

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Celebrating 98 years of preserving local history

President's Reflections

What I really like about Brantford's history is that it is a case study of many of Canada's historic periods. Brantford has:

- Its pre-European contact period that can be traced back 11,000 years;
- Its pioneer period and agriculture;
- Its canal era;
- Its railroad era;
- Its industrial era;
- Its participation in the War of 1812, the Boer War, the First World War and the Second World War;
- Its great inventors, poets, writers, artists and sports heroes.

In a way, Brantford is a microcosm for the country and it has an important story to tell.

Our Society has a critical role in this community — as the principal historical society for Brantford and Brant County, it holds most of its artifact and archival materials. Since there are no significant public holdings of historical materials, this means that the collection, preservation and presentation of the history of this community are in private hands — primarily our hands. Since there is no designed community input into our decision-making and no process for holding boards accountable for the interpretation of history in this community, it falls to us to present our history comprehensively and with balance. Finally, since there is no strategic approach to identifying and preserving the heritage of this community, it falls to this Society to

work co-operatively with others and to develop one.

Heritage is a living legacy that helps us understand our past, provides a context for our present and influences our future. It can be an integrating activity that pulls a community together and builds civic pride.

Brantford has the potential to take advantage of its rich heritage. To do that, it will have to engage the community in a comprehensive plan to better articulate what is important to the community and how it should be presented. It will have to invest more resources in its heritage programs. And that's what we are trying to do with the initiatives that we have undertaken in the past two years. I believe we have been successful in expanding our collection, improving access to our archival materials and continuing a fine tradition of publishing and lecturing on subjects that are of interest to our local citizens. I also hope that a number of initiatives in progress will serve to focus this Society on our role of presenting the history of this community and will provide a road map for the expansion of our museum and its integration with other heritage organizations.

This will be my last "President's Reflections" for our newsletter. I have had the privilege of working with you for the last two years as President of the Brant Historical Society. I have the greatest confidence in our staff, our board members and our volunteers to work successfully towards the goals of our Society. I'll expect to see many of you at our Christmas events, and if I don't, have a wonderful holiday season.

—Robert Glass

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors

President Robert Glass

Vice-President Delia O'Byrne

2nd Vice-President Laurie Dunn

Secretary Calvin Diegel

Past President Calvin Diegel

Directors Margaret Glass, C. St. John Ludlow, Robert Michalchuk, Gloria Neamtu, David Partridge, Heather Russell, Michael Schoenborn, Jonathan Shrubsole

Brant Museum & Archives

57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ont. N3T 2W6

Phone 519-752-2483 Fax 519-752-1931

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.

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, Ont. 519-752-8578

Admission by voluntary donation

Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Executive Director's Report

Dear Members,

The museum has been very active this fall with the opening of two exhibits at 57 Charlotte St. and the launching of a revised education program for students. "A Book Arts Mosaic" and "Writing and Printing in Brantford" opened on Nov. 10, 2006, and have received positive reviews from visitors. The exhibits are on display until Dec. 22, 2006, so I would like to encourage everyone who has not yet had a chance to visit the museum to come and explore these wonderful displays. "A Book Arts Mosaic" is currently on loan from the Canadian Bookbinders and Artists Guild and features some wonderful works of art by artists from across Canada.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the museum is hosting two workshops. ArtReach: Creating a 3-D Book is being held on Dec. 2 and Introduction to Bookbinding is being held on Dec. 9. For information about either workshop, or to register, please give the museum a call at 519-752-2483.

Behind the scenes, Rob Michalchuk continues to focus on the database project. Quickly being able to find information about the collection and having access to digitized photographic records is proving to be a valuable resource for researchers. Requests for photographs continue to increase as more people become aware of the wealth of information in our archival holdings.

This fall, Stephanie Rymon-Lipinski moved into the newly created position of Museum Technician. Stephanie is primarily responsible for education programs but also

assists with curatorial duties and research. As a result, our Education Program has been updated and two new programs — one on archeology and one on photography — are being offered.

Cindy MacDonald has taken on the responsibility for co-ordinating the BHS membership meetings and other special events at the museum. The November BHS meeting was very successful and speakers are currently being finalized for the next six months.

The museum also has been fortunate to have had an exceptional co-op student this fall. Brandon Maracle from Pauline Johnson Collegiate is a Grade 12 student who is interested in history and considering a career in teaching. Brandon is updating the museum's self-guided tour books so that visitors get a much better understanding of our heritage and a more informative visit to the museum.

I also would like to welcome our newest volunteer, Brandy Gare, who is helping us in the office. Volunteers are very important to a successful museum and volunteer activities can be tailored to individual interests. There are many different volunteer opportunities available and I would encourage anyone interested in working at the museum to come and talk to us.

As always, I encourage you to come by the museum for a visit. If you have any ideas or suggestions for programs or services, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,
Joan Kanigan-Fairen

Coming soon

A delightful picture book highlighting the museum's collection of photographs soon will be available at the museum gift shops.

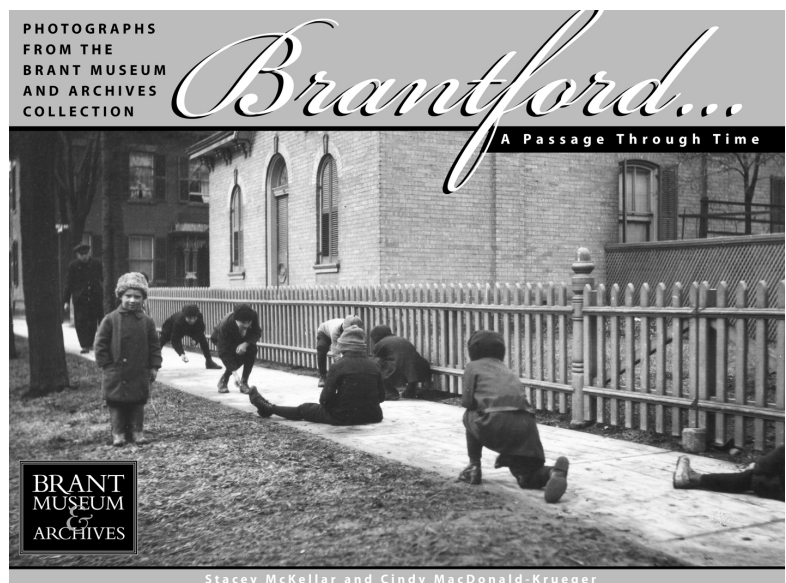
More than 200 fascinating photographs cover aspects of life in Brantford, including its businesses, industries, churches, schools and street railway, and illuminate the city's development from the mid-19th century to the beginning of the Second World War. This is a great resource for students and a must-have for enthusiasts of local history or vintage photography.

Watch The Expositor for details of a book launch and call the museum to reserve your copy.

\$29.95

128 pages, softcover

Black and white images



This unique project was made possible by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. It is a companion piece to Laurier Brantford's recently released CD-Rom, *Industry & Perseverance*, available through the Laurier bookstore and the Brant Museum and Archives for \$19.95.

Pauline Johnson's Canoeing in Canada

Continued from Front Page

"pull through" in "better shape" than many of the men they had piloted down that wild old river, that is one long series of swirls and rapids, from the moment it breaks into the Grand Falls at Elora until it scampers past the pretty little city of Brantford, nearly 100 miles distant.

And we did start, right in a down-pour of rain, whose mist and grayness shut out all too soon the long, little village of Elora, whose site would be a fortune to it were some speculator only to erect a summer hotel therein. In the very heart of the village the Grand Fall pitches itself over a height of fifty feet, splitting at its brow against an anvil-shaped, cedar-crowned rock that looms up amid the fall like some huge obstruction hurled from the hand of a giant god to stem the ondashing waters that with reunited force precipitate themselves in myriads of lesser cascades until, amid clouds of spray and renewed violence, they leap into the canyon's throat, those ever-gaping granite jaws await greedily to swallow the tumultuous stream into its immutable cavern. Immediately below the fall the river twists itself into the Corkscrew Rapids, then squeezes its breadth into the Narrows, after flinging past the Lovers' Leap, a huge jagged promontory at the junction of the Grand and a lesser stream called the Irvin, at which point the gorge rises perpendicularly almost a hundred feet in a massive pile, its shelving irregularity perforated by numerous caves and created by the hardy cedar, whose roots miraculously draw their nutriment from those earthless cliffs.

Below the Narrows another rock frowns out conspicuously. It is called "The Old Man's Face," as it bears a striking resemblance to a human profile. Then the river breaks

into a turbulent little cascade some five feet high, and finally sinks exhausted and lulled into a huge stone basin known as "The Devil's Punch Bowl." Below this we launched our three frail craft. The temptation to run this magnificent wildcat was almost irresistible, but our cautious pilots refused all importunities.

The only things that made life worth living that day were the beauty of the landscape and — dinner. Our course lay through one of Ontario's finest farming districts, for after leaving Elora, all hints of stone and granite disappeared as though by magic.

Few people that see this gem river of Ontario know how importantly the name of the Grand figured in the early treaties between Britain and the Indians. After the war of independence, when the Iroquois adhered to England and signalized their intention to settle in her domain, the royal grant of land to "The Six Nations" comprised "the territory lying within six miles on both sides of the Grand River, from its source up to its mouth," a tract that included a larger portion of the present Counties of Wellington, Waterloo, Brant and Haldimand. That was 100 years ago and what have the Six Nations now? A scrap of reserve embracing 53,000 acres of uninteresting, timberless and in many places marshy land, while the garden lands of the river are again in the white man's possession. To be sure, the Six Nations have deposited \$800,000 with the Dominion Government. It is the sale price of only some of their lands, but not nearly the value thereof. But although these shores have long been strangers to the moccasined foot of the red hunter, although many moons have pale, and died since

Continued on Page 5

Picture copies for sale

Not only is the museum a great place to do photo and archival research, but it also offers lovely, high-quality photos for sale to the general public. These make great gifts for any history buff.

Please phone staff for further details at 519-752-2483, or send an e-mail to information@brantmuseum.ca.

Prices:	4 by 6	\$5
	8 1/2 by 11	\$16
	11 by 17	\$30
	13 by 19	\$50



Pauline Johnson's Canoeing in Canada

Continued from Page 4

these mighty elms and firs spread their numerous branches above the barked bivouac of that grandest of all Indian races, the pure old Iroquois, still the river voices and the restless pine trees

Sing of the lonely years, when all along
These shores they heard the Indian's hunting song
And watched his elfish, whispering canoe
Flit like a spirit, as they listened to
The fleeing footsteps of the startled deer
That paused to slake its thirst in waters clear.

And in the midst of this territory the little Dutch village has sprang up, its citizens stolid, prosaic, unromantic, are as great a contrast to the erstwhile legend-loving Indians, who lived and hunted and died here, as two nations of two continents could well be.

After noon on the second day we sighted the pretty hamlet of Doon nestling in its hillsides. One may not find this village on every map of Canada, but amongst bohemians it is a household name, inasmuch as artists have made it a sort of summer breathing spot, where nature and study blend harmoniously. Before reaching the village we drifted by a magnificent elm tree that is destined to become famous in Canadian art, inasmuch as one of the most gifted landscape painters in the country has reproduced it on canvas under various aspects, until it is known far and wide as "Watson's Elm." It is the most princely thing all along the river, and with its grace and grandeur is a fitting sentinel to guard the river portals of Doon, the pillow of art.

To give an idea of the quaintness of this village one has only to mention the primitive contrivance the villagers have of conveying letters and parcels across the river, which here is bridgeless. A stout wire cable stretches from shore to shore, over which slips a huge wicker basket, worked by the simple method of "pulling a string." And this meets all the simple demands of the villagers. We touched at the bank for a half hour, and had an all too brief glimpse into an artist's home. Luckily it was the studio of Carl Ahrens, who has recently made such a hit in domestic and child painting. Picturesque as ever, surrounded with home affections and effects, the rising artist gave us a welcome that lacked no warmth, and when we left two artists joined us in their tiny bark canoe, accompanying us some four miles down stream. We bade them good-bye with regret and skimmed on, putting into pretty, graystone Galt at 5 o'clock that afternoon,

scarce realizing that we had run thirty-three miles since morning.

The third day dawned bluer, balmier even than its predecessor, and we launched just below the Galt dam, with various friends and the omnipresent small boy in full force to wish us good luck, for this was to be our day of days, inasmuch as we were to brave the wildest rapids of the run.

"The Eleven Link rapids." The very name of it went to my head like wine. Full often had I heard of this famous stretch of seven miles, wherein eleven wildcats followed one another like the links in a chain, with but a few yards space between wherein you could breathe and grasp your paddle with renewed vigor.

There is nothing in life that sends me as crazy as a rapid. My brain goes aflame when I see the distant whitecaps, my heart pulses wildly with the first faint music of waters galloping madly over their rocky obstructions, singing, singing, laughing their endless, restless poetry — the world holds no such music for me as the cool calling of waters that my bow will kiss and conquer before the hour is over.

We were in the first "link." I snatched off my cap, gripped my paddle afresh, barely in time as we hurled dashing into the second rapids, and so ran, the Wild Cat, obeying my blade through the entire Eleven Links.

Then a stretch of calm, silent waters, tired as a child after play hour, a run through the Town of Paris, a portage over its unrunable dam, and then for home. Fifteen miles of alternate ruffled and gentle shores, of purling, landlocked streams, of yellow beaches and of

Quaint sandpiper winging
O'er the shallows, ceases singing
Where we move.

Of banks starred with trilliums and wild violets, of hills yellow with dandelions, lagoons spiked with blades of river iris, and the familiar spires and steeples outline the eastward sky, before us lies Brantford, sleeping in the sunshine, behind us laughs the wild old river out of its rocky gorge at Elora, we drift slowly, regretfully toward the boathouse, where stand the men who taunted us with probable failure. We have had no disaster, no upset, nothing but success, so the men cheer and hurrah us, call us "some of the boys," and shake hands heartily as we beach the last time, for our sweet mad cruise is over.

— E. Pauline Johnson

Brant County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Friday, Dec. 15, 2006 Turkey Dinner, socialize from 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., \$15 per person; reservations accepted until Dec. 12, 2006, at Smokey Hollow Estates, 114 Powerline Rd., Brantford, Ont.

Please call 519-753-8581 for more program information.

Do You Remember?



*Photo courtesy of
Brant Museum and Archives, Image 7225*

Eatons on its closing day, June 29, 1997.

YOUR AD GOES HERE.

Advertising in the BHS Quarterly is easy! To reach more than 200 members, contact the Publications Committee through the museum. A credit card-sized ad costs \$25.

A Book Arts Mosaic — Workshops

ArtReach: Creating a 3-D Collage Book
December 2, 2006

Workshop Leader: Karen Bell

A graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design, Karen has worked as an Art Specialist at Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant for seven years.

Time : 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Bring a lunch!)

Location: Brant Museum and Archives
57 Charlotte St.

Material Fee: \$10.00

In this creative workshop you are invited to use text and imagery to construct a three-dimensional collage book. You will play with form and content in response to catalyst words, using cardboard and mixed media to create a unique Visual Poem. Together we will explore how artists use unity to organize and control variety, while using variety to add interest to unity.

Introduction to Bookbinding

December 9, 2006

Workshop Leader: Tannis Atkinson

A bibliophile who enjoys calligraphy and bookbinding in her spare time, Tannis works as an editor and teaches book history at Laurier Brantford.

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Bring a lunch!)

Location: Brant Museum and Archives
57 Charlotte St.

Material Fee: \$10.00

In this session you will learn to sew two basic forms of books. Working with handmade paper you will create beautiful covers for a pamphlet and a stab-bound collection of loose pages. Anyone who can hold a needle can sew these books.

Please contact the museum to register.

CHRISTMAS BELLS

The museum still has copies of *Brantford's Link to Greatness*, by the late Albert VanderMey. The is available at the museum gift shops, The Expositor, the Bell Homestead and Green Heron Books, Paris, for \$49.95.

Finally — the Brantford angle is explored in depth! Every Brantfordian should have this book.



DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

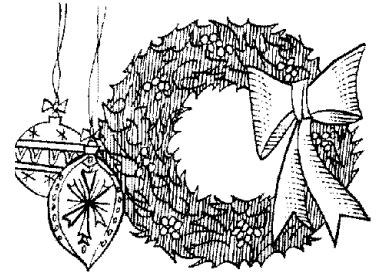
Endowment Fund: The interest from this fund goes to the operation of the museum.

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 — including the Settlement Gallery, a new reception desk and repairs to the glass enclosure.



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
- **NEW!** discount price on Brantford Film Group tickets

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

Our 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.

Acknowledgments

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

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57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ont. N3T 2W6
Phone 519-752-2483 Fax 519-752-1931
E-mail: information@brantmuseum.ca



Happenings



Brant Museum & Archives

Exhibit

"A Book Arts Mosaic," on loan from the Canadian Bookbinders and Artists Guild, and "Writing and Printing in Brantford," curated by Tannis Atkinson and Joan Kanigen-Fairen. Nov. 10 to Dec. 22, 2006, at 57 Charlotte St.

Workshops

Please see Page 6 for details about two exciting workshops.

At the gift shop

Brantford . . . A Passage Through Time: Photographs from the Brant Museum and Archives Collection, by Stacey McKellar and Cindy MacDonald-Krueger, \$29.95.

Brantford's Link to Greatness: A Portrait of the Amazing Alexander Graham Bell, by Albert VanderMey, \$49.95.

Reluctant Genius: the passionate life and inventive mind of Alexander Graham Bell, by Charlotte Gray, \$36.95.

Safe Harbour, 2007 calendar, published by the Port Dover Harbour Museum, \$10.

Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to help with aspects of the museum and society. Please let staff know if you can offer a regular or one-time commitment of your time or expertise.

Zehrs' tapes

Please keep them coming to both museum sites!



Brant Historical Society

General meetings

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

Dec. 13, 2006 David Judd, managing editor of *The Expositor* will explore "Christmas in 1906."

Jan. 17, 2007 Karen Richardson, curator of Princeton and District Museum and Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, will show us that "A Woman's Work is Never Done."

Feb. 21, 2007 AGM or speaker

March 21, 2007 AGM or speaker

April 18, 2007 Leo Groarke, dean of Laurier Brantford, will speak about the history of the Brantford campus.

May 16, 2007 To be announced

June 20, 2007 To be announced



Brant Historical Society

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. Tickets are **\$10** and are purchased at the door. Visit www.brantmuseum.ca for film details.

In addition to the change in price, filmgoers should note that, beginning in the fall, ALL Brantford Film Group tickets must be purchased through the Brantford Mall Cinemas box office. We are no longer able to sell advance tickets at other locations. Purchasing an annual membership with the Brant Historical Society for \$20 entitles you to buy tickets at a discount price of \$8, while enjoying the benefits of membership outlined on Page 7. All advance tickets purchased before the change in price will be honoured.

There will be no films scheduled at the Cineplex Odeon facility between Nov. 1 and Jan. 1; this change is due to constraints imposed by head office, not by local management.

Jan. 11 The Queen (Rated G, 97 min.) An engaging examination of one of the most intriguing and crafty political figures of our time, the film is set during the week immediately following Princess Diana's death and follows Queen Elizabeth as she works with Tony Blair to determine a suitable public response to the tragedy while also dealing with her family issues.

Jan. 25 Volver (Rated 14A, 120 min., subtitled from Spanish) An entertaining film about the power of motherhood and friendship from Pedro Almodovar. Raimunda is a hard-working mother in Madrid whose life becomes complicated by the unexpected death of her husband and the re-appearance of her dead mother. Stars Penelope Cruz.

Feb. 8 Catch a Fire (Rated 14A, 98 min., some subtitles) A rousing political thriller that pivots on the most intimate betrayals in the war against apartheid. Based on true events, it is the story of a man whose treatment at the hands of security police forces him to confront his political principles and to act on them.

Feb. 22 Death of a President (Rated PG, 93 min.) A fictionalized account of the assassination of George W. Bush in October 2007, the film takes the form of a documentary investigation, cleverly using actual newsreel footage and inserting the fictional components and actors. Not a personal attack on Bush, but rather a look at the potential consequences that might follow his policies and actions in this scenario.