

NOTE FROM THE BOARD

A recent report prepared by Hill Strategies Research Inc. on behalf of the Ontario Museum Association (OMA) underlines the significance of museums as economic drivers in Ontario. Museums spend \$758 million in communities across Ontario, employ 10,765 Ontarians and contribute significantly to the province's \$28 billion cultural GDP. Notwithstanding the important role Ontario's 670 museums play in supporting the province's cultural industries and their importance in preserving our cultural heritage, they face significant challenges financially and operationally.

The report, based on 2014 statistics, states that Ontario museums attract 5 million visitors, 45% of which are tourists. Nearly 77% provide curriculum-based programming. Most rely on volunteer engagement with more than 13,000 volunteers contributing 777,300 hours in 2014. Over 335 of collections are stored in areas considered to be inadequate and most museums display 20% or less of their collections. Nearly 76% of museums are in aged facilities and some 56% require major renovations or additions.

Funding to support museums varies across the province. The Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) accounts for about 6% of total revenues for the 173 museums that qualify for the program. Funding from CMOG received by the Brant Historical Society represents about 5.8% of revenues. In most communities, public sector funding comes from municipalities, but the level of funding is highly inconsistent across the province. Museums with revenues between \$160,000 and \$320,000 receive on average 57% of their revenue from municipalities. In Brantford, the City funds 20% of the operating costs up to a maximum of \$51,000. The Brant County provides a grant of \$4,250. In the case of the City financing of the Museum, this means that if you reduce operating costs to make the museum more efficient, the amount of dollars you receive is lower as was the case this year.

Ontario's Museums 2014 Profile is an important report for several reasons, though it may not get the study it deserves.

Firstly, it underlines the significant of museums as economic drivers in local communities. They spend money locally, they employ people, and they attract tourists. Second, the report underlines challenges faced by museums across the province. The infrastructure is aged and not efficient in meeting archival preservation needs, and in providing effective and attractive exhibition space. The report also underlines the economic challenges faced by museums across the province. Third, the report provides a comparative through which museums can measure their performance. Brant Museum and Archives meets or exceeds the provincial average in most categories.

The OMA recommends a review of provincial funding for museums. For the past decade the Provincial Government has invested \$5 million annually in supporting museums, an amount that has not increased during that period. Here in Brantford, municipal financing is well below the provincial average. Although the municipality has marginally increased funding for capital projects, the financial challenge lies in operating financing. Despite increased revenues over the past few years and an on-going program to reduce costs by many museums across the province, including the Brant Museum and Archives, there is a threshold where aging infrastructure limits revenue generation and cost reduction impact both the capacity to generate revenues and sustain operations.

What the report suggests is that we need to develop new approaches in how we support museums. It does not mean simply changing a financial model to provide more money. It means acknowledging that museums are important to communities both from a cultural and economic perspective. It means that investment needs to be made in dealing with the aging infrastructure across the province. Perhaps most importantly, it means working together within our respective communities to ensure that museums are providing the type of programs relevant to the needs of the community.

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OPERATIONAL REPORT



We have had an exciting spring season culminating in Museum Month celebrations. Over the past couple years we have averaged 3 or 4 events for Museum Month, but this year we have increased that to 8 events. Attendance was also up from an average of 286 visitors to 392 visitors in Museum Month.

During the month of April, we spent a lot of time setting up for our exciting Museum Month Events. We also had time to kick off our Walking Tour Series on April 30th with the Earliest History at the Fording Place. At the same time, we hosted a course with the Ontario Museum Association course on Artifacts at the Brant Museum and Archives attended by two staff.

May was museum month which was celebrated with numerous events. The first was our Heritage Excursion Tour organized by our Special Event Committee. This was the first attempt at organizing a tour and was a very successful event.

The next event was our exhibit Gala on May 4th that attracted 55 people. The *Airing our Dirty Laundry* Exhibit focused on three washing machine and soap companies that existed in Brantford. Extend Communications sponsored our gala and the following evening was awarded Company of the Year the Chamber of Commerce's Awards Banquet.

During May we also launched *Doing our Bit*, a play written by Vince Ball of the Expositor and exclusively produced and sold at the Brant Historical Society for \$9.95. At the book launch, there were readings by the author and even a performance of a scene by local actors.

Finally, our Special Events Committee also produced the

Sir John Franklin talk that we hosted at Laurier to accommodate enough space. The speaker gave participants some background on the project that led to the discovery of the Erebus. 115 people attended this talk at Laurier and we hope to have even more for an exciting talk for the fall.

Our Walking Tour Series has continued to have success attracting new visitors and members to the Historical Society. So far this year, we have completed 5 Walking Tours with a total attendance around 75 people. Keep your calendar open for the remaining 5 Walking Tours of the year including a Fire Evening Walk on October 28th and 29th.

We were also active in the community in May attending the CARP Fair and the Lynden Park Mall to promote Museum Month and the Brant Museum Crawl. In early June we also attended Springtime in Paris and in July our annual booth at Canada Day. Being visible in the community at events like these help in building awareness of our organization and attracting people back to the museum and reached out to nearly 1000 people in our community.

Over the remainder of the summer, we are quickly preparing for a very busy fall worth of events. We have planned an event for nearly every week in the fall from September to December. We hope that we will see many of our supporters throughout the remainder of the year.

*To learn more about programs and volunteering opportunities at Brant Historical Society, please contact **Nathan Etherington** at 519-752-2483 or nathan.etherington@brantmuseums.ca*



**"PEOPLE FROM THE PAST - A BIOGRAPHY SERIES"
SERIAL 2**



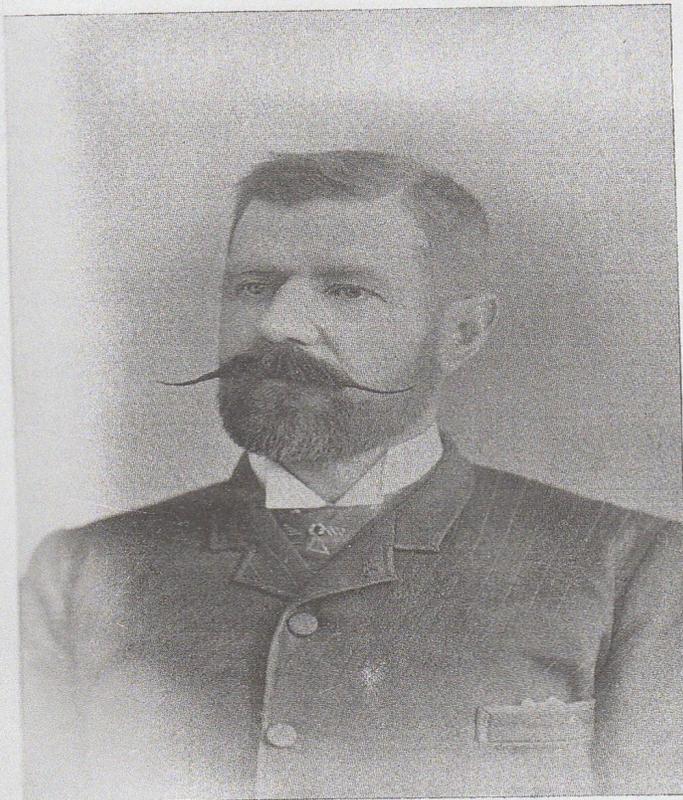
When searching through the Library in February 2016, we located a book entitled *The Canadian Album: Men of Canada*. As August is Civic Holiday, I thought I would focus on the two Mayors that were listed in the album. We have Peter Cox, Mayor of Paris and Samuel G. Read, Mayor of Brantford. Each newsletter, we will produce 2 or 3 of these biographies and have a poll on our Facebook Page where you can vote on which person seems to have had the biggest impact on Brantford.

MEN OF CANADA.

27

PETER H. COX, retired captain and mayor of Paris, "Claremont" Paris, Ont., was born on the 11th of November, 1852, at Chatham, Kent County, England, his parents, however, resided in Dorsetshire, where he calls home. Captain Cox was educated at King's College, Sherbourne, Dorsetshire, England, and afterwards came to this country in the spring of 1869, where he worked for a time as a farm pupil, and afterwards settled on a farm two miles south of Paris. In the year 1880 he retired from active agricultural pursuits and settled in the town where he has re-

sided ever since. During recent years he has not engaged in any business, but has devoted considerable time to the interests of the town, filling numerous offices of importance. He was married on the 17th of November, 1875, to Annie Salina, youngest daughter of Captain James B. Harris, late of Her Majesty's 24th Regiment. Coming from a military race, his father being Colonel of Her Majesty's 56th Foot, Captain Cox having passed his military examinations, joined the volunteer forces of Canada in 1871. He commanded the Paris Company for eight years, and retired with rank in 1882. In politics Captain Cox is a Liberal-Conservative, and is president of the Conservative Association for the South Riding of Brant. He is also secretary of the Paris Board of Trade, and of the Masonic fraternity, offices which he has held for some years, and he is a Past Master of the latter. He has been connected with various local athletic associations. Capt. Cox is a member of the Anglican Church, warden of St. James Church, Paris, and delegate to the Synod of Huron. In the Dominion general elections of 1891 he received the unanimous nomination of the Conservative Convention to contest the Riding of South Brant with Wm. Patterson, M.P., but was defeated after a gallant fight. He has rendered such service to the town of Paris that he is held in the highest esteem by the residents of this important and picturesque town.



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SAMUEL GEORGE READ, Mayor of the City of Brantford, was born there on the 12th of May, 1843, and was married in 1865 to Miss S. A. Pendlebury. He was educated at the Brantford public schools. His father was the Rev. Samuel Read, for many years an earnest and respected minister of the Baptist Church in Ontario. Mr. Read has been for many years in the real estate business, and is well known all over Ontario as a man of shrewd business habits. In religion he is a Baptist, being a member of the Park Church, Brantford, and for eighteen years he has been chairman of the finance committee of the society. He held the office of alderman from 1881 to 1890, when he was elected mayor of the city. He has held other important positions, such as governor of the John H. Stratford Hospital, member of the board of Police Commissioners, member of the Board of Trade, and is at present on the Free Library board, and the board of Water Commissioners. Mr. Read is well liked by all who come in contact with him, either in business or public life, and has proved himself exceedingly attentive to the interests of the city. He is a strong friend of the temperance cause, and can always be relied upon to aid in its onward march, either by the influence of his voice in public gatherings or by the contribution of his money. He is a Liberal in politics, although in his public life he has never obtruded un-

duly his views upon the community, and as a citizen, as well as the chief magistrate of the city, he is equally popular with all classes and all shades of politics. His mother still lives in the city, and, notwithstanding that she has arrived at a good old age, is a regular attendant upon the ordinances of religion. Like his parents, Mayor Read is an earnest Christian worker, and can always be found at his post of duty, both in the church and the Sunday school. That all our public offices were filled by such men is greatly to be desired. May the day soon come when such will be the case.



FROM OUR COLLECTION



In researching for an upcoming exhibit for the fall on maps, it became necessary to look at all the maps that exist in the collection. As a result, we pulled some other maps from Brant County that we don't commonly look at. In our search we discovered the existence of an interesting map from the St. George Area.

We immediately knew the map was old as it uses the old technique of printing the map with a linen or textile backing and other materials like varnishes applied ovetop, giving the maps a shiny appearance. Upon further inspection, we found the signature of Lewis Burwell, the original land surveyor for the Southwestern Ontario. The map is dated October 14, 1836.

St. George at this time looks like a small crossroads with little existing east of what is now Main Street. The small fragments owned by John Mullen on the east side of Main Street show the existence if a blacksmith, wagon shop, distillery, stable, and inn. Next to this was Stanton's General Store.

Just west of Main Street, there is a Grist Mill and Mill Pond North of High Street and South of Beverly Street. The

approximate location of this Mill Pond and Grist Mill are highlighted superimposed on modern Google Map of this area.

Moving further west is a large empty space with one lone house labelled "Dr. Stinson" on the south side of High Street. It appears that this house might be currently located at 6 High Street. Further west are two houses owned by a David Reid and Donald McDonald. Across from this is the Presbyterian Church and just to the east is the Methodist Burying Ground, currently named the Pioneer Presbyterian Cemetery.

This maps shows that St. George use to be a very different community and you can see how the modern community has changed and evolved that layout of the town. This is the idea that is hoped to be showcased through our fall exhibit, where you can identify why there are seemingly odd layout patterns in our communities. However, there were past reasons for these layouts that still manifest themselves on a community's modern layout today.

Nathan Etherington
Program Coordinator



THEN

NOW



MYRTLEVILLE HOUSE NEWS

In the past few weeks, Myrtleville House has been thrilled to welcome children back to the museum through our summer camp programming. We have been very busy making crafts, going on scavenger hunts and baking tasty treats. Some of the themes for this year's camp are Camp Myrtleville's Got Talent, Myths and Legends, and Pioneer Days. We are proud to announce our registration numbers are higher than they have ever been and we have been fully booked at 25 campers most days and expect this trend to continue throughout the summer.

This year we have been very fortunate to receive some extra help from new local initiatives. The Grand Erie District School Board's new program Focus on Youth has sent us three wonderful local high school students for 6 weeks. The YMCA has also placed a francophone high school student from Quebec with us as part of an exchange program. We are also happy to welcome an alternative placement student from the Nippissing Laurier concurrent education program for 120 hours over the summer.

The Brant Historical Society is very excited to announce a workshop series: Past Skills of Present Times. The Myrtleville House will be hosting three workshops this fall.

Each workshop will be 2-3 hours in length and range in price from \$30 - \$50. They will teach skills from the past that are being lost in our present times. In these hands on lessons we hope to revive lost outdoor survival skills, hand sewing calligraphy and card making. Be sure to watch your inbox for registration information!

By now you should have received an email invite, but if you missed it we are very happy to invite all members and their family or guest to a Barbeque and potluck at Myrtleville on Wednesday August 24th from 6PM-8PM. The BBQ (hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks and desserts) is catered, and members are encouraged to bring a side that will serve 6 (For example: appetizer, salad, cheese, fruit or vegetable tray). If you would like to join us, please RSVP by August 19th via email: sarah.thomas@brantmuseums.ca or phone: 519-752-3216 Make sure to include if you are bringing your family or a guest.

*For More information on Junior Volunteer Training, camps, special events, education programming or other volunteering opportunities at the Myrtleville House Museum please contact **Sarah Thomas** at 519-752-3216 or sarah.thomas@brantmuseums.ca.*

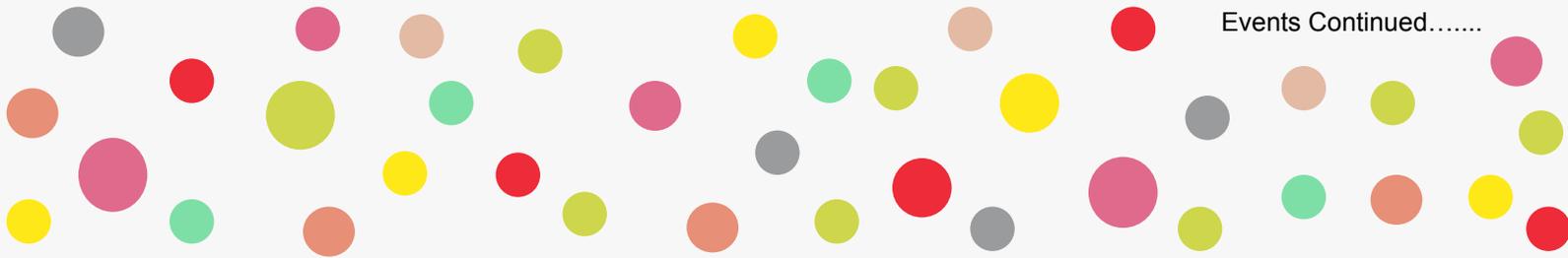


BHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
PD DAY & SUMMER CAMPS			
Aug 2 nd –5 th , 2016 (No Camp Monday Aug. 1 st)	Summer Day Camp: Splash Into Summer	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	Drop off in between 8-9am. Pick up between 4-5pm (\$10 for extended child care to 5:30pm)
Aug 8 th – 12 th , 2016	Summer Day Camp: Myths and Legends	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	Drop off in between 8-9am. Pick up between 4-5pm (\$10 for extended child care to 5:30pm)
Aug 15 th – 19 th , 2016	Summer Day Camp: Game Show	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	Drop off in between 8-9am. Pick up between 4-5pm (\$10 for extended child care to 5:30pm)
Aug 22 nd – 26 th , 2016	Summer Day Camp: Animal Kingdom	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	Drop off in between 8-9am. Pick up between 4-5pm (\$10 for extended child care to 5:30pm)
Aug 29 th – Sept 2 nd , 2016	Summer Day Camp: Spy Kids	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	Drop off in between 8-9am. Pick up between 4-5pm (\$10 for extended child care to 5:30pm)
Fri, Sept 16 th , 2016	PD Camp	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	Drop off in between 8-9am. Pick up between 4-5pm (\$10 for extended child care to 5:30pm)
Fri, Oct 7 th , 2016	PD Camp	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	Drop off in between 8-9am. Pick up between 4-5pm (\$10 for extended child care to 5:30pm)
WORKSHOP SERIES: PAST SKILLS IN PRESENT TIMES			
Sat, Sept 24 th , 2016	Outdoor Survival Skills	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	9:00am—12:00pm
Sun, Oct 23 rd , 2016	Paint Club	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	1:00pm—4:00pm
Sat, Nov 5 th , 2016	Hand Sewing	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	10:00am—12:00pm

Events Continued.....



BHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS *Continued....*



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
EVENTS			
Wed, Aug 24 th , 2016	BHS Member's Potluck Picnic (Please bring a side, which serves six to share. The BHS will provide dessert, hamburgers and hotdogs.)	Myrtleville House Museum 34 Myrtleville Drive	6:00pm – 8:00 pm
Sept 17 th – 18 th , 2016	BHS Booth at Apple Fest	St. George, ON	Saturday 10:00am – 6:00 pm Sunday 10:00am - 5:00 pm
Wed, Sept 28 th , 2016	Marsha Skrypunch Dance of the Banished	Brant Museum & Archives 57 Charlotte Street	7:00pm
Sat, Oct 1 st , 2016	Culture Day A full day of events for young and old alike.	Brant Museum & Archives 57 Charlotte Street	10:00am - 4:00pm
WALKING TOUR			
Sat, Aug 13 th , 2016	Brantford Canal Walk	Starting from the turn around on Beach Road	10:30am
Sat, Sept 3 rd , 2016	Worker's Heritage Walk	Starting from the Brantford District Labour Centre (1100 Clarence St S.)	10:30 am
Sat, Oct 1 st , 2016	Local Author's Walk This is a NEW walk!	Starting from the Brant Museum and Archives	10:30 am
Fri, Oct 28 th <i>and</i> Sat, Oct 29 th , 2016	Fire Walk This is a NEW walk!	Starting from the Brant Museum and Archives	Both days walk begin at 7 pm

*For more information on upcoming events, please contact
Nathan Etherington, Program Coordinator
at 519-752-2483 or nathan.etherington@brantmuseums.ca*

