



President's Report

At our Annual General Meeting on April 9, members of the Brant Historical Society elected a complete nine-member Board of Directors, each of whom bring a great deal of skill and experience to the role. The Directors then met to elect their President and Chair: Murray Angus, Vice-President: Leisah-Marie Jansen, Treasurer: Bill Hyde, and Secretary: Michael-Allan Marion. The other Directors are Sarah Clarke, Pat Duern, Brian Moore, John Utley, and Gladys Woodburn. Together we are working to support our members and our Executive Director: Marion McGeein.

You may have seen our media release that detailed the sale of the Crystal Cottage to Dan and Carol-Lyn Brown who are eager to restore the cottage. With the funds from the sale, we concluded a mortgage which had been arranged with a private individual.

Members of the Board have held meetings with key agencies which effect the future of the Society and its museum locations. There have been several meetings with representatives of the City, plus communication with the National Trust of Canada.

Several Directors attended the Brant Museums & Galleries Association workshop in April, and the Wilfrid Laurier University Hub for Community Solutions first Summit/Conference in May. Both events brought forward new ideas to help us find solutions to outstanding issues.

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BRANT HISTORICAL —SOCIETY—

Established on May 8, 1908, the Brant Historical Society is an independent registered charity operating two museums uniquely positioned to make a difference in the lives of Brant citizens.

Our purpose is to collect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Brantford, Brant County, Six Nations, and the Mississauga of the Credit Indigenous Nation.

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- Brant Moment
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 - Courthouse Tour
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- Recent Community Events

Contact Us
519-752-2483
information@brantmuseums.ca

Presidents Report Continued

The Board recognized our volunteers during National Volunteer Week (April 14 - 20, 2024). We are proud of the volunteers and staff who offer great service to the museums' visitors, most recently through the many events and activities that were organized during Museum Month in May.

The Board has also started developing an updated strategic plan. Grants have been obtained to upgrade the Society's website, and to provide better communications resources for our staff. Further, an Emergency and Disaster Plan is being developed for the Brant Museum & Archives, with Myrtleville to get similar attention in the fall.

To wrap up, we are very pleased with what we have been able to accomplish to date. But we can do more with your support. Don't wait until year's end before you make that donation to the Society. In fact, maybe this year if it's possible you'll look deeper into your wallet.

Join us for events throughout the summer! I look forward to seeing you when we reassemble in the fall.

-Murray Angus, Brant Historical Society President

Myrtleville House Museum
34 Myrtleville Drive
Brantford, Ontario N3V 1C2

519 - 752 - 3216
esther.brouwer@brantmuseums.ca

Monday to Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm



Myrtleville House has always been a place of incredible beauty and strength to me; but it has not always been secure.

161 years ago, in June of 1863, the Goods of Myrtleville experienced their first financial troubles. Both Allen and his second son Charles were let go by the fire insurance company they had been working with. Charles took his young family and moved to Buffalo for better opportunities, but Allen had been at the Myrtleville farm for nearly 30 years already, and it was home.



Top: Allen and Eliza Good
Below: Anne Good and her brother, Charles
(Photos belong to the National Trust of Canada)

By November, some of the family's 600 acres of land had to be sold. They were left with 70 acres, 20 of which belonged to Eliza, Allen's wife, and 50 to his eldest daughter, Anne. Allen was saved by Anne when she purchased enough equipment to keep the 70 acres going.

From the Recipe Books

Empire Biscuits

Ingredients:

3 cups flour
 1 tsp. baking soda
 1 tsp. cream of tartar
 1 tsp. vanilla
 1/2lb butter
 1 egg
 Icing sugar
 Milk
 Red maraschino cherries
 Strawberry or Raspberry jam

Cream together butter and sugar. Add egg and beat until light. Sift together dry ingredients, and slowly add to butter and sugar. Add vanilla.

Roll dough out as thinly as possible on a floured board, and cut with a round cookie cutter.

Bake on a greased cookie sheet at 350 for 10 minutes.

When cookies are cold, put them together in pairs with thick jam in between.

Make an icing of icing sugar and milk of spreading consistency. Ice top of cookies and center each piece with a maraschino cherry



At the end of the year, Anne wrote the following in her journal:

"This, like all the years of my life, has been one of mixed troubles and pleasures. I have very many mercies for which to be thankful, almost uninterrupted health of body and peace of mind...we are now reduced almost to poverty & do not know whether we will be allowed to remain in our old home. If it would at all comport with the will of our Heavenly Father, I should wish it very much, at least so long as Mama and Papa live. I intend to do all in my power toward that end...so now, on the last night of the year may I close with the words at the heading of Jay's exercise, "Thank God, and take courage."

It took a number of years to build the farm back up to a workable acreage of 146, with great effort from Anne and her brothers John and Thomas, but in the end she got her wish. Both Allen and Eliza spent the rest of their lives on the farm, and so did Anne. 110 years later (1973), her great nephew Robert was the last Good to operate the farm before renting out their final total of 421 acres. Myrtleville has had many wins and losses over its life, and no doubt there are many more of both to come. Nothing in life worth fighting for is easy, but that doesn't mean it is not worth it. I hope, like Anne, that there are always people willing to do all in their power to keep up this fight.



Left: A young Anne Good

Center: Anne Good with her niece (and namesake) Frances Anne

Right: An aerial shot of the Myrtleville property
 (Photos belong to the National Trust of Canada)

Looking to volunteer?
These positions are
available:

- Gardening
- Cleaning/tidying exhibit spaces
- Helping with children's programs (summer camp!)
- and more!

Email volunteering@brantmuseums.ca for more information



Photo Spotlight

This photo shows the Morton family, gathered together for the 50th anniversary of Mr. Robert Morton Sr. and his wife Mrs. Helen Morton (nee Young) in 1869.

They were married May 9, 1819 and lived in Montreal before moving to the Brantford area in 1856. The couple had the house behind them built in Tutela Heights, which was later bought by the Bell family in 1870.

Brant Museum and Archives
Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6

519 – 752 – 2483
information@brantmuseums.ca

Monday to Friday
12:00pm – 5:00pm

Saturday
10:00am - 5:00pm



Our latest exhibit, Photographers of Brantford, opened on Saturday, May 11th!



Doug Fawcett's Baby
(Image #10259)

This exhibit tells the story of different photography studios within the city, dating from 1864 - 1925. Visitors will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite photo on display, with categories including: best dressed, best moustache, best baby photo, and best overall.

The exhibit will run until September 5, 2024, so be sure to stop in and visit!

Summer students at the Brant Museum and Archives

Through two funding programs (Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs) BHS was approved for three summer students, two of whom have already started at the Brant Museum and Archives.

Pearl began on May 7th. She is our Archival Assistant, helping with adding records to the database as well as scanning documents. David started on May 14th as our Objects Cataloguer. He will be working through some of the permanent displays on the second floor, photographing artifacts and adding them to the database.

The Museum's Largest Artifact: 57 Charlotte Street

The first patent for the property known as 57 Charlotte St. was given to John A. Wilkes on December 29th, 1852. The property consisted of one half acre of land. In 1864, 57 Charlotte St. was sold to local druggist Frederick Brendon for \$200.00. Six years later in 1870, Frederick Brendon erected this building.

On July 2nd, 1883, Mr. Frederick Brendon sold the house to Dr. William Cochrane, who had moved from New Jersey to become the minister at Zion Presbyterian Church (now St. Andrew's United Church). William Cochrane also founded the Brantford Young Ladies' College in 1874. This was a finishing school for young ladies and was located at 120 Brant Avenue, the current site of Brantford Collegiate Institute & Vocational School.



Following Cochrane's death in 1888, Mr. John G. Cohoe became the next legal owner of 57 Charlotte St. on November 23rd, 1901.

In 1904, Cohoe sold the property to Mrs. Emma Verity, who resided here with her husband, Percy, until her death in 1916. After Emma's death, Mrs. Minnie Verity acquired the property.

On April 1st, 1951, the Brant Historical Society purchased this building. Formed in 1908, the Brant Historical Society had, until this point, kept a majority of their artifacts in the basement of the Public Library (the Carnegie Building). A large extension was added to the Museum in 1967. This space, now a storage room and research area, has been used in the past as a lecture hall, programming area, and space for smaller exhibits.

In May 1977, the upstairs section of the addition was transformed into Brant Square at the cost of \$12,500. It features a series of former storefronts found throughout Brantford. These storefronts display a number of different items, many of which were available to shoppers across the country in the late 19th century, and made in Brantford and/or Brant County.

Though the building has been home to the Brant Historical Society's collection for over 70 years, this shows that the property is an important historical entity in its own right.

Speakers Series:

It was another full house at the Canadian Military Heritage Museum, with nearly 70 people in attendance for John Bullen's presentation on the History of the Lancaster Bomber on Wednesday, April 24.

Bullen, a member of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, shared stories about the creation of Lancaster, as well as about the crew who piloted these massive planes. There was a lively discussion following the presentation, and we hope to have him return in the future for another presentation!

Many thanks again to Bob Ion and the Canadian Military Heritage Museum for hosting, and to John Bullen for providing such an interesting evening.



Local Historian Tracy Cain joined us for the final presentation of the 2023/24 season. Hosted at the Brant Museum and Archives on May 22, her presentation "And Then What Happened..." examined the Black Canadian Pioneers' experience in Ontario, with particular focus on over 200 years of her own family's history.

This presentation was not filmed.

For those that could not attend, past presentations can be found on our YouTube Channel:
@branthistoricalsociety.

Superior Courthouse Tour:

Murray Angus and Justice James Kent arranged an opportunity for BHS members to see the interior of the Brant County Superior Courthouse on Wellington Street, on Friday, May 24. Fourteen participants visited the large wood paneled and trimmed courtroom, reached by way of hallways and a staircase that date back to 1852 and have been preserved in that style. The tour moved on to the second courtroom (dating from the first addition in 1861), followed by the jury room and defendant's cells on a lower level. It was great to see the courthouse when one is not "required" to appear!

Upcoming Events:

- The Brant Historical Society's **Members BBQ** is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19th from 6:00 - 8:30pm at Myrtleville House. Entertainment for the evening is Ian Bell. The entry fee for members is a salad or appetizer for 6-8 people.
- BHS will be at the City of Brantford **Canada Day Celebrations!** Join us at Lions Park from 11:00am - 5:00pm in the Young Canadians area.
- Join us at the Bell Homestead on July 31st from 2:00 - 4:00pm for a presentation entitled "**Life on the Line: The Evolution of the Home Telephone**". Brian Wood, Curator at the Bell Homestead NHS, will offer a presentation based upon the new telephone exhibit, and a guided tour of the site. Free for BHS & BHNHS members, \$10.00 for non-members. Call 519-752-2483 or email information@brantmuseums.ca to register

Walking Tours:

- **The Great War Walk**, Sat. June 8 @ 10:00am. Starting at the VIA Rail station on Wadsworth Street.
- **Glenhyrst Gardens Walk**, Sat. June 15 @ 10:30am. Starting at the north parking lot at Glenhyrst (20 Ava Rd.)
- **War of 1812 Walk**, Sat. June 22 @ 10:30am. Starting at the parking area of D'Aubigny Creek Park.

Call 519-752-2483 or email information@brantmuseums.ca to register. The full schedule of walks can be found on our website.

W. Ross Macdonald School Tour:

Submitted by: David & Jill Cook, BHS Members

Photo by: Robin Harding, BHS Member

The W. Ross Macdonald School tour on April 19 was conducted by school principal, Dan Maggiacomo, art teacher, Carolyn Cresswell and two senior students. The school motto is "The impossible is only the untried."

Dan gave us a history of the school which opened in 1872 as the Ontario Institution for the Education of the Blind, later called the Ontario Blind School. It was given its present name in 1974. The original curriculum included farming and house keeping skills.

The school has many tactile landmarks and textures on the walls that allow students and staff to navigate their way through the school. Changes in flooring texture and brighter lights provide safety at hallway intersections and stairs. General lighting is dimmer due to light sensitivity for many of the students.

Programming is individualized for each student depending on their needs, interests and abilities. Educational instruction from kindergarten to high school graduation is provided using the Ontario curriculum. Students are taught life skills such as cooking and laundry and they go out into the community to shop for groceries and recreational activities. Courses include art, music, drama and physical education. Students go on field trips including sports events, downhill skiing and wilderness camping. Swimming and water skills like canoeing are taught in the school's pool. Students learn to use adaptive programs on their cell phones and tablets. Our enthusiastic student guides described school life and gave a demonstration of using programmed sounds to identify the apps on their cell phones.

A highlight of our tour was Carolyn Cresswell's description of her art program and her Vincent Van Gogh project on the cafeteria wall (right). It is an amazing display of student tactile and visual art work based on Van Gogh's Starry Night.



Heritage Excursion Day:

Submitted by: David & Jill Cook, BHS Members

Photos by: Frank Eigler

The Heritage Excursion on May 1 began at the Brant Museum & Archives with a very interesting presentation by Dan and Carol-Lyn Brown. They talked about their many home restorations and new builds that replicate historical homes, as well as their plans for the Crystal Cottage. They gave a tour of the Crystal Cottage exterior, pointing out its many interesting features.

The excursion group then proceeded to the Brantford Armory where a member of the regiment described the facilities and the training that takes place there. We were able to view cadets training on artillery equipment.

Next on the agenda was a tour of our surprise location, The Sanderson Centre, where Murray Angus gave a history of the facilities and tour of the stage, dressing room, theatre and lower lobby. Our group enjoyed reminiscing about past events at the theatre and the possibility of a resident ghost.

We then adjourned to the Brantford Club for lunch where retired justice, James Kent, gave a history of the social club. After a delicious lunch we were taken on a tour of the club facilities.

The excursion group then made our way to the Local History and Archives room at the Main Branch of the Brantford Public Library, where Geoffrey Moyer gave a talk on use of the archives available for public use.

As Brian Moore led the group between the excursion locations, he pointed out many points of historical interest. Many thanks to the organizers of the excursion.



Dan & Carol-Lyn Brown (L) explain the exterior of the Crystal Cottage.



Murray Angus provides more detail on the BHS displays in the lower lobby.



Lunch provided by the talented staff at the Brantford Club.



Attendees await a presentation from Geoffrey Moyer (standing) in the BPL Local History Room.

Memories of Brantford: Armenian Community

A preview event promoting the Armenian Community of Brantford was held on Saturday, March 23 at the Canadian Military Heritage Museum for 60 people. The program began at 11:35 AM with opening remarks by Bill Darfler including an overview of the various immigrant communities of Brantford and highlighting the four cultures profiled thus far. Jack Jackowitz then talked about the stories and artifacts which has been collected.



Nathan Etherington presented the research process and where it has led the team. The opening concluded with a video drawn from several interviews conducted to date. Lunch followed with items offered to profile a traditional Armenian meatless lunch (meat was reserved for the supper meal). The event concluded with a reading of the play “Me, You and the Armenian” drafted by Peter Muir and his team at the Brant Theatre Workshop.

This preview event was held ahead of the weekend-long exhibit opening, scheduled for September 28 & 29, 2024. This exhibit of Armenian artifacts and stories will be curated by Dr. Christina Han, supported by staff at the Brant Museum and Archives. As in past years there is expected to be a walking tour, prepared by LeeAnn Krekorian Chan with support from Brian Moore. Entertainment will consist of dancers and musicians followed by a traditional Armenian dinner – this time with meat. Following dinner there will be a panel discussion about growing up Armenian in Brantford, plus a new presentation about community research. Saturday will conclude with a performance of the play. On Sunday it is expected that the exhibit will be open, and the play repeated.

Laurier’s Summit for Creative Community Solutions



Wilfrid Laurier University’s “Hub for Creative Community Solutions” offered its first Summit/Conference on Thursday, May 16 from 8:30-3:30 to share ideas and solutions among community representatives. Focusing on three themes: 'Innovation, Sustainability, Inclusion', the Summit addressed key community challenges, and featured diverse speakers and interactive sessions to engage participants.



It is intended that this event will be offered annually. It was an opportunity to gain from the insight and the experiences of others since we often work to solve our problems within our own “silo.” Look for this opportunity in May 2025 to help one become inspired in one’s effort to contribute to a lively and successful community.

Each membership package comes with the following privileges:

- ✓ Advance notification and special invitation to all our Activities and Events, including Children's Camps and PA Days
- ✓ Free Admission to our monthly Speaker Series
- ✓ Free Admission to our Walking Tours (fee applies to all non-members)
- ✓ BHS Newsletter – all that's new and exciting at BHS
- ✓ 10% off all Gift Shop purchases over \$20
- ✓ Access to, and use of, our Research facilities - 5 hours of research time



Packages:

Student (\$20.00)
(to 24 yrs with school/college/university ID)
(One voting membership in all Brant Historical Society membership meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, plus all privileges)

Individual (\$25.00)
(One voting membership in all Brant Historical Society membership meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, plus all privileges)

Couple (\$40.00)
(Two voting memberships in all Brant Historical Society membership meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, and all privileges for two individuals living at the same address)

Family (\$80.00)
(Four voting memberships in all Brant Historical Society membership meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, and all privileges for a family living at the same address)

Payment may be made at or sent to:

Brant Historical Society
57 Charlotte Street
Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6

Please provide the names of all individuals per package and indicate if over 18 years of age for voting membership.

Name: _____ 18+
Name: _____ 18+
Name: _____ 18+
Name: _____ 18+
Name: _____ 18+

Address: _____
City: _____ PC: _____
Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation Amount: _____

(Tax receipts will be provided for monetary donations above \$20.00)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Cash Cheque
 Credit Card: ___ Visa ___ MC

Number: _____

Expiry date: _____