

## **William Stevenson – 2017 Museum Student Summer Report**

### **Events**

#### *Happy Boys Gang*

In June I appeared at the Happy Boys Gang gathering at the Legion on request of David Wall, to perform a speech on behalf of the North Huron Museum. At this event I discussed the importance of supporting local museums as a way of sustaining and creating cultural heritage, while also acting as a collective remembrance for the whole community.

#### *Jack Reavie Centre & Braemar Retirement Centre/Nursing Home*

In addition to the aforementioned community engagement, I also performed presentations for both the Jack Reavie Centre as well as Braemar. At both of these events I delivered presentations about the origins of tea to Western civilization, and Edwardian culture as it revolved around British tea consumption. After this presentation on the topic of tea, the residents and I enjoyed a tea party which included a variety of tea, replica bone china tea sets, and period appropriate hats for the residents to enjoy. After the tea party, the residents received tea-themed colouring pages which they were delighted to colour.

### **Research Project**

As a topic of focus this summer I catalogued, researched, and exhibited a new display of 70 different cameras which illustrate the evolution of photographic and cinematic technology from late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Through this endeavour I have created a wealth of knowledge for future students to draw upon when utilizing these cameras for display or presentation, while preserving these artifacts as a historically significant piece of North Huron's collective past, tying in well with our pre-established CKNX displays.

In addition to this research on cameras, I also completed extensive genealogical and property research. These requests were plentiful, and originated from locals native to Huron County, and those as far-afield as Northern Ireland. Through this research I was able to successfully fulfill many family's desires to learn more about their ancestral homes or presence within the North Huron region, while also assisting in the ongoing process of documenting this history here at the museum.

Researching and cataloguing donations was also a substantial part of my time here at the North Huron Museum, having archived over 150 new artifacts this summer. Furthermore, I created many new collections in which to categorically assess and document our past within the Township of North Huron, particularly in regards to the new collection consisting of artifacts relating to North Huron Festivals.

## **Attendance Records**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Adults</b>	260
<b>Kids</b>	32
<b>Volunteers</b>	29
<b>Barn Dance Volunteers</b>	9
<b>Alice Munro Volunteers</b>	28

**Grand Total: 358**

Visitors to the museum come from many points in Ontario including Whitby, Toronto and Kingsville in 2017. This summer we hosted visitors from Penticton, Quesnel and Chilliwack, British Columbia; Grimshaw and New Norway in Alberta; as well as, Colorado and Ohio and Illinois.

## **Extra Jobs**

In addition to my aforementioned projects, I have also assisted in preparing for various North Huron festivals and celebrations including the Musical Muskrat Festival, the Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story, East Wawanosh's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Blyth's 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the 2017 International Plowing Match. I also assisted Connie in various ways around the museum as she performed her role of Economic Developer. Furthermore, I provided the Alice Munro Library with rotating exhibits in which to display North Huron's heritage to a broader audience.

## **Conclusion**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at the North Huron Museum. I have learned an immense amount about the intricate history of North Huron and its role within the larger County context, while also having the pleasure to serve the community of North Huron alongside such great Municipal employees. I am grateful for the opportunity the Township of North Huron presented me, and I have gained invaluable experience under your tutelage.

Thank you and best of luck in the future,

William Stevenson