

# **The Alice Munro Exhibit**

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Where does tourism fit into Wingham's plans? We have one of the world's greatest writers that received a Nobel Prize but we have done very little to promote our town to tourists. We also have a revamped Town Hall Heritage Theatre that used to be very popular with bus companies. Now the theatre and the museum are basically closed.

Friends of the North Huron Museum took a small, dowdy collection of pictures and turned the Alice Munro exhibit into a full collection of her autographed books including some that have been translated into other languages.

## **Additional Features**

- Mounted plaques portraying the life of Alice Munro
- Memorabilia ie. The Alice Munro minted coin, stamps, the hat she wore to the opening of the Alice Munro Literary Garden
- 4 photo albums of her life and achievements
- Made available for purchase the writings of Alice Munro, the only place they were available in Wingham

In past years we have had tourists tour the museum, spend the night in town and visit other places of interest featured in Alice's books including her childhood home.

After winning the Nobel Prize for Literature, visitors came from many US states, England, Germany, Hong Kong, Sweden, Japan, China, Russia and from across Canada. Would they have come to Wingham if we had not had a museum, not very likely. There will be many tourists disappointed this year because you have closed the very exhibit that they came to see.

We have asked many times for the old Custom's Area to be made a part of the museum so we could expand and produce a more complete Alice Munro exhibit. We had also considered opening an Alice Munro coffee/tea shop in the same area.

Tourism is high on the agenda of most communities and Wingham has a "living" tourist attraction in the form of Alice Munro and a beautiful, historic theatre that stands empty. Why?

You seem to have made a decision to close the museum for 2018 without consultation with the taxpayers.

A suggestion from the former "Friends" would be to consider hiring someone to co-ordinate entertainment and events at the museum with the box office housed in the museum. This would allow the museum to be open to the public on a regular basis.

There is support among the former Friends of the Museum to assist with making this happen.