

## **Summer 2016 at the North Huron Museum**

### **Events**

#### *Edwardian Tea*

On Friday, May 27th, the Friends of the North Huron Museum put on their Annual Edwardian Tea. The guest speaker this year was Virginia Newell, who gave us a presentation on vintage dolls. We had a good turnout, with approximately 38 guests present. We were given many positive reviews from visitors.

#### *BBQs*

This summer, the Friends of the North Huron Museum held multiple BBQs to raise money for the museum. The Huron County Health Unit passed us upon inspection, and we received a great turnout from the public at each event. Between three BBQs, the Friends took in \$536.45, minus expenses for food, etc.

### **Day Camp Programs**

#### *The History of Rock n' Roll*

In July, the day camp from North Huron completed a program at the museum during their "Rock n' Roll Fantasy Week." I compiled a presentation to teach the kids about the history of Rock and Roll. We showed the children around the Barn Dance Museum as well, and taught them about the Barn Dance show that used to be on TV on the CKNX station. Bill Farnell also brought in some of his toy instruments and showed them to the kids.

Additionally, we gave the children a tour of the 2nd floor and helped them complete a craft. The 4-6 year-olds decorated toy microphones, and the older children (ages 6 and up) made miniature rock and roll bands out of clothespin dolls. We also did a "Listening to Music Through the Ages" activity, where we set out record players, ipods, sheet music, cassette tapes, and more, to show the children what devices people used to use to listen to music before the age of itunes.

#### *Games of the Past*

In August, the day camp from North Huron visited us again during their "Video Game Mania Week." Bill and I took this as an opportunity to teach the children about "Games of the Past." I created a presentation about different games and toys, starting in Ancient Egyptian times, and ending in the Victorian Era. Bill set up a display in the Settlement Room containing board games and toys from the early to mid-1900s. We helped the kids complete either a "marble maze" or a "marble shoot" out of shoe boxes. We then taught them how to play a variety of outdoor and indoor games, including "Hunker Hauser," sack and wheelbarrow races, checkers, "Ludus Romanus," marble games, stilts, and much more! I believe that the children genuinely enjoyed learning about these older games, especially the ones involving marbles! I would highly recommend running this program again in the future.

#### *Gorrie VBS Camp*

I also visited a Vacation Bible School day camp in Gorrie one morning in July. Since it was Howick's 160th anniversary this summer, I brought in a collection of "pioneer" artifacts from the museum, along with some photographs and colouring sheets. We discussed what life would have been like in Gorrie 160 years ago, when the area was first being settled. The children really seemed to enjoy the presentation, and I was glad to see so many of them engaged with the topic!

### **Research Project**

This summer I did not complete a research project. Instead, I worked on updating our cataloguing system. I updated our donation and cataloguing forms in a way that would utilize more features on our *Past Perfect* cataloguing computer program. I believe that these changes will be of use in the future, as artifacts in storage will be able to be located much faster, and more background information on items will be recorded for future volunteers and employees.

### **Attendance Records**

*Adults (Total):* 541

*Kids (Total):* 131

*Day Camp:* 114

#### *Events*

Edwardian Tea: 38

Alice Munro Master Classes (Alice Munro Festival): 47

*Research Appointments / Visits:* 36

*Volunteers:* 198

*Barn Dance Museum:* 168

*Alice Munro Nook:* 185

*Tourist Info:* 25

***Total:*** 566

### **Extra Jobs**

As mentioned above, I worked on updating our cataloguing system in a way that would utilize more features of the *Past Perfect* program. I believe that these changes will help volunteers and staff locate artifacts in storage much faster in the future, as well as provide them with more information on each artifact.

I visited Wingham Community Living, the Braemar Retirement Centre and the Braemar Nursing Home throughout the summer season and completed a variety of educational programs with them. At Community Living, we looked at artifacts and photographs from pioneer times, and experimented with a collection of rubber and notary stamps from the museum. In June at the Braemar Nursing Home, I brought in a collection of artifacts from the early to mid-1900s, and sparked conversation amongst the residents of days from their youth. In August, I visited the Nursing Home again as well as the Retirement Centre, and presented my slide show that I had created for the Wingham day camp on “Games of the Past.”

I put together a “Looking Back - Household Objects from the Past” display in the Settlement Room. I also made a display at the Alice Munro Public Library that featured Edward Farley, Wingham’s first settler.

I also helped with the cataloging of artifacts, research requests sent in to us by the public, and I assisted the Friends of the Museum with their projects. Additionally, I assisted the Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story committee during the festival in June.

I highly enjoyed my second summer here at the North Huron Museum, and I am very grateful for being chosen again for this employment opportunity. As always, the staff and volunteers were very helpful, and made my summer even more fun! Over these past two years, I have learned a lot about my home and how North Huron grew into what it is today. I was able to build upon my experience in areas such as public history, curating, archiving, education, and research. I am very hopeful that the skills I have gained from this experience will help me in my future endeavors and career goals.

I strongly believe that museums as well as other cultural centres in Canada serve a multitude of purposes to the public. They provide a great amount of education to both young and old, help us connect with our past, find missing pieces to our family tree, preserve artifacts, and much more. That is why communities need to make it a priority to preserve their local histories and make it available to the public. The Canadian government on all levels should see how important it is to invest our time and money into national and world history. Museums play a *huge* role in doing this, and I hope that when I am done my post-secondary education, there will be enough opportunities for me to assist in doing this as well.

I am so grateful to everyone that made it possible for me to work here this summer, as well as the last.

Best of luck to the North Huron Municipal Staff and its endeavours in the future,

Kathleen Stennett  
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North Huron Museum